

①  
NASA CR 132682

DO NOT DESTROY  
RETURN TO LIBRARY

DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, AND TEST OF  
GRAPHITE-EPOXY COMPOSITE SPOILERS  
FOR FLIGHT SERVICE ON  
737 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

Robert L. Stoecklin

October 1976

NASA-CR-132682

Prepared under contract NAS1-11668 by

Boeing Commercial Airplane Company  
P.O. Box 3707  
Seattle, Washington 98124

21 FEB 1977  
MCDONNELL DOUGLAS  
RESEARCH & ENGINEERING LIBRARY  
ST. LOUIS

for  
Langley Research Center  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

M77-11081



|  |   |  |            |
|--|---|--|------------|
| 1. Report No.<br><b>NASA CR 132682</b>   | 2. Government Accession No.                                 | 3. Recipient's Catalog No.                                   |            |
| 4. Title and Subtitle<br><b>Development, Manufacturing, and Test of Graphite-Epoxy Composite Spoilers for Flight Service on 737 Transport Aircraft</b>   |   | 5. Report Date<br><b>October 1976</b>                        |            |
|  |   | 6. Performing Organization Code                              |            |
| 7. Author(s)<br><b>Robert L. Stoecklin</b>   |   | 8. Performing Organization Report No.                        |            |
| 9. Performing Organization Name and Address<br><b>Boeing Commercial Airplane Company<br/>P.O. Box 3707<br/>Seattle, Washington 98124</b>   |   | 10. Work Unit No.  |            |
|  |   | 11. Contract or Grant No.<br><b>NAS1-11668</b>               |            |
| 12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address<br><b>National Aeronautics and Space Administration<br/>Langley Research Center<br/>Washington, D.C. 20546</b>  |   | 13. Type of Report and Period Covered<br><b>Final Report</b> |            |
|  |   | 14. Sponsoring Agency Code                                   |            |
| 15. Supplementary Notes<br><b>NASA Technical Representative: Mr. Richard A. Pride</b>  |   |  |            |
| 16. Abstract<br><br><p>This manufacturing and test report was prepared in compliance with the requirements of contract NAS1-11668. It documents the events and techniques employed to fabricate, verify, and certify a total of 114 graphite-epoxy flight spoilers for the 737 aircraft. Additional information is presented concerning manufacturing costs of both the graphite-epoxy components and the completed spoiler assemblies. Static test data used to substantiate the FAA certification request is also presented.</p> |   |  |            |
| 17. Key Words (Suggested by Author(s))<br><br><b>Graphite-epoxy<br/>Composite spoiler<br/>Fabrication costs</b>  |   | 18. Distribution Statement                                   |            |
| 19. Security Classif. (of this report)<br><b>Unclassified-Unlimited</b>  | 20. Security Classif. (of this page)<br><b>Unclassified</b> | 21. No. of Pages<br><b>95</b>                                | 22. Price* |

# CONTENTS

Page

|  |  |
|--|--|
| SUMMARY .....                                |  |
| INTRODUCTION .....                           |  |
| MANUFACTURING PROCEDURE .....                |  |
| Adhesive Selection .....                     |  |
| Procurement .....                            |  |
| Tooling .....                                |  |
| Spoiler Production .....                     |  |
| Graphite Skin Fabrication .....              |  |
| Tape Quality .....                           |  |
| Machine Layup .....                          |  |
| Skin Processing Sequence .....               |  |
| End Rib Fabrication .....                    |  |
| Spoiler Assembly .....                       |  |
| Frame Assembly .....                         |  |
| First-Stage Bond .....                       |  |
| Second-Stage Bond .....                      |  |
| Third-Stage Mechanical Assembly .....        |  |
| QUALITY CONTROL .....                        |  |
| Production Spoiler Inspection .....          |  |
| Evaluation of NDT Results .....              |  |
| Static Test Spoiler Evaluation .....         |  |
| NDT Inspection Procedure .....               |  |
| Equipment .....                              |  |
| Standards .....                              |  |
| Procedure .....                              |  |
| MANUFACTURING COSTS .....                    |  |
| CERTIFICATION TESTING .....                  |  |
| APPENDIX: Engineering Drawing 65-76327 ..... |  |
| REFERENCES .....                             |  |



**DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, AND TEST OF  
GRAPHITE-EPOXY COMPOSITE SPOILERS  
FOR FLIGHT SERVICE ON  
737 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT**

**Robert L. Stoecklin  
Boeing Commercial Airplane Company**

**SUMMARY**

This report has been prepared to compile the events and techniques employed to fabricate, substantiate, and certify the graphite-epoxy flight spoiler for the 737 aircraft under NASA contract NAS1-11668. Since the graphite-polysulfone flight spoiler design (being developed under the same contract) is still under development, a separate report will be prepared to document its fabrication and substantiation data.

A total of 114 spoiler units were fabricated in a production-shop environment, utilizing three graphite-epoxy material systems. Production planning paper was generated for each spoiler unit to completely document each production step of each spoiler unit. The graphite-epoxy skins were laid up on production tooling using both mechanical and hand layup techniques. Inspection techniques utilized MRB-type assessment in the absence of formally documented quality requirements.

Each completed spoiler was subjected to ultrasonic inspection utilizing a multicolor recording system that documented each inspection result. In addition, one static test spoiler was sectioned after test to examine the adhesive filleting to the honeycomb core. Visual examination of the cured adhesives showed excellent results.

Three spoilers, one representing each graphite-epoxy material system employed, were static tested to destruction. Ultimate loads attained ranged from 241% to 289% of design limit load. The production 737 aluminum spoiler achieved 210% design limit load. Type certification for each of these spoiler types was obtained from the FAA predicated on the successful static test program.

## INTRODUCTION

The fabrication of structural graphite-epoxy components for commercial aircraft has been largely limited to experimental-shop activities where a handful of units have been fabricated on prototype-quality tooling. While this procedure may well bear out the design concept under consideration, it does not further the confidence of engineering managers who must face the realities of large-volume production accomplished in a production-shop environment. Up to this writing, no satisfactory method short of committing a given structural design to a production run on "hard" tooling has been advanced to demonstrate this confidence. A major objective of the graphite-epoxy flight spoiler program has been to demonstrate this producibility.

The engineering design for the 737 composite flight spoiler had already been accomplished as an internal development project. Five specimens had been fabricated and tested, with changes in the prepreg material and the laminate layups being the major variables. Graphite-epoxy skin assemblies were laid up and autoclave cured. The aluminum substructure of the production spoiler design (except for the end rib) was retained. The end rib was laid up as a one-piece, five-ply fiberglass unit.

All fabrication activities, including quality control testing, were conducted at the Auburn Fabrication Division of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company. All structural testing was accomplished in the Structural Test Laboratory of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company. After fabrication, inspection, and certification, 108 of the spoiler units were shipped to six commercial airlines for installation and extended flight service evaluation. Documentation of the flight service portion of this program is being done annually (see refs. 1 and 2).

The following individuals have made major contributions to the material contained in this report:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mr. Vere Thompson | Manufacturing Research and Development     |
| Mr. Walter Keilt  | Structural Test Laboratory                 |
| Mr. Robert Cook   | Quality Assurance Research and Development |



## **MANUFACTURING PROCEDURE**

### **ADHESIVE SELECTION**

A principal objective of the graphite-epoxy flight spoiler program was to demonstrate, under commercial service conditions, the ability of graphite composites to resist corrosion. Since the program offered an excellent opportunity to evaluate corrosion resistance, the latest technological materials and processes available were employed. The two areas that most profitably could be exploited were the metallic primer system and the adhesive system.

At the time the decision for selection of a primer system was to be made, Boeing was internally evaluating a new corrosion-inhibiting primer process, employing a phosphoric acid anodize. To implement this process prior to formal preparation of the process specification, the process was adapted to the special application of the spoiler program through issuance of a Boeing document (ref. 3). This process has subsequently become known as BAC 5555.

Selection of an adhesive system followed a similar philosophy. The use of a 394 K (250° F) curing adhesive was imperative, since at least one of the graphite composite systems to be utilized would cure at 394 K. The only adhesive system available at this time that met these requirements and appeared to offer satisfactory properties after exposure to 333 K (140° F) and 100% relative humidity was Hysol's EA 9628. Since this adhesive system satisfied the preliminary requirements being set down for the proposed Boeing Material Specification XBMS 5-101, EA 9628 was recommended as the adhesive for the graphite-epoxy spoilers. Adhesive property requirements are also included in reference 3. Subsequent release of Material Specification BMS 5-101 has included EA 9628 as a qualified adhesive.

The material properties specified for EA 9628 are shown in table 1, together with the range of test values obtained in qualification testing.

### **PROCUREMENT**

#### **GRAPHITE MATERIAL**

In accordance with contract NAS1-11668, a materials screening program was conducted to select three graphite-epoxy systems from several epoxy matrixes and graphite reinforcements that were commercially available. The screening program was as follows.

- Contact graphite-epoxy vendors, establish quantity of test prepreg required, and establish delivery dates.
- Receive prepreg and fabricate test laminates.
- Prepare test specimens and condition specimens as required.

Table 1.—EA 9628 Material Properties

|                                      | Specification<br>requirement<br>(D6-32541) | Maximum<br>test value | Minimum<br>test value |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 5-mil adhesive                       |  |                       |                       |
| Lap shear, psi                       | 4840 avg<br>4560 min                       | 6460                  | 4412 <sup>a</sup>     |
| Metal/metal peel,<br>in-lb/in. width | 56 avg<br>46 min                           | 70.0                  | 54.2                  |
| Honeycomb peel,<br>in-lb/3-in. width | —  | —                     | —                     |
| 10-mil adhesive                      |  |                       |                       |
| Lap shear, psi                       | 4980 avg<br>4860 min                       | 6420                  | 4560 <sup>a</sup>     |
| Metal/metal peel,<br>in-lb/in. width | 77 avg<br>67 min                           | 78.6                  | 64.8 <sup>a</sup>     |
| Honeycomb peel,<br>in-lb/3-in. width | 60 avg<br>47 min                           | 73.6                  | 57.6                  |

<sup>a</sup>Qualified under MRB approval

- Coordinate with Manufacturing to evaluate prepreg for tape-laying machine adaptability.
- Conduct tests for mechanical properties and laminate and prepreg physical properties.

As a result of the screening program, Union Carbide Thornel 300/2544, Narmco Thornel 300/5209, and Hercules AS/3501 prepreg tapes were selected to fabricate the production spoilers. The graphite tape was supplied to Boeing on special reels that are a part of the Manufacturing Research and Development tape-laying equipment. Each reel is capable of holding up to 4.5 kg (10 lb) of 76-mm (3-in.) tape material.

The graphite tape material was procured to meet a set of requirements established by Engineering to ensure a level of quality consistent with aircraft-quality structure and the requirements of the tape-laying equipment used on this program. Among the requirements were:

- Control of graphite tape width to +0.000, -0.38 mm (-0.015 in.)
- Control of release paper width to +0.000, -0.38 mm (-0.015 in.)
- Control of release paper quality by weight to 36 kg per 278 m<sup>2</sup> (80 lb per 3000 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- Limitation of frequency of tape splices to no more than one every 46 m (150 ft)
- Control of gaps between rows 0.76 mm (0.03 in.) wide by 51 mm (2.0 in) long and frequency of gaps to not more than 2 per cross section or 12 per running meter of tape



- Limitation of frequency of defects such as crossovers and folds to not more than 1 in 30 m of tape, with such defects to be plainly marked to facilitate removal
- Control of cured ply thickness to 0.14 mm (0.0055 in.)  $\pm$  0.013 mm (0.0005 in.)
- Control of room temperature mechanical properties to the following minimums:

$$F_{tu} = 1137(10^6) \text{ Pa (165 000 psi)}$$

$$F_s = 68.9(10^6) \text{ Pa (10 000 psi)}$$

$$E_t = 117.2(10^9) \text{ Pa (17.0 x 10}^6 \text{ psi)}$$

- Control of fiber volume to 60%  $\pm$  2%

Table 2 summarizes mechanical properties of the material systems selected from the screening program. Table 3 summarizes mechanical properties of samples made concurrently with graphite skin fabrication.

Table 2.—Mechanical Property Summary of Selected Composite Systems

| Testing property                                | Narmco<br>T300/5209 |                 | Union Carbide<br>T300/2544 |                 | Hercules<br>AS/3501 |                 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|   | Boeing<br>data      | Vendor<br>data  | Boeing<br>data             | Vendor<br>data  | Boeing<br>data      | Vendor<br>data  |
| Compression ultimate<br>0° at RT                | 889<br>(129.0)      | 1103<br>(160.0) | 859<br>(124.6)             | 1186<br>(172.0) | 865<br>(125.5)      |                 |
| 0° at RT 30 days 333 K (140° F)                 | 774<br>(112.2)      | 748<br>(108.5)  |                            |                 |                     |                 |
| 0° at 344 K and 100% RH                         |                     |                 |                            |                 |                     |                 |
| Compression modulus<br>0° at RT                 | 132.4<br>(19.2)     | 117.2<br>(17.0) | 148.2<br>(21.5)            | 155.1<br>(22.5) | 100.0<br>(14.5)     |                 |
| Tensile ultimate<br>0° at RT                    | 1110<br>(161.0)     | 1172<br>(170.0) | 1340<br>(194.3)            | 1200<br>(174.0) | 1311<br>(190.2)     | 1393<br>(202.0) |
| 0° at 344 K (160° F)                            | 1221<br>(177.1)     |                 | 1422<br>(206.2)            |                 | 1241<br>(180.0)     |                 |
| 90° at RT                                       | 36.5<br>(5.3)       |                 | 17.9<br>(2.6)              |                 | 35.9<br>(5.2)       |                 |
| 90° at 344 K (160° F)                           | 31.0<br>(4.5)       |                 | 32.4<br>(4.7)              |                 | 28.3<br>(4.1)       |                 |
| Tensile modulus<br>0° at RT                     | 117.2<br>(17.0)     | 124.1<br>(18.0) | 163.4<br>(23.7)            | 141.3<br>(20.5) | 124.1<br>(18.1)     | 106.9<br>(15.5) |
| 0° at 344 K (160° F)                            | 131.7<br>(19.2)     |                 | 178.6<br>(25.9)            |                 | 135.8<br>(19.7)     |                 |
| 90° at RT                                       | 10.8<br>(1.56)      |                 | 14.3<br>(2.07)             |                 | 12.5<br>(1.82)      |                 |
| 90° at 344 K (160° F)                           | 8.5<br>(1.24)       |                 | 11.9<br>(1.73)             |                 | 12.1<br>(1.75)      |                 |
| Short-beam shear<br>0° at RT                    | 82.0<br>(11.9)      | 96.5<br>(14.0)  | 54.5<br>(7.9)              | 103.4<br>(15.0) | 93.1<br>(13.5)      | 93.8<br>(13.6)  |
| 0° at 344 K (160° F)                            | 66.9<br>(9.7)       |                 | 47.6<br>(6.9)              |                 | 75.8<br>(11.0)      |                 |
| 0° at RT, 30 days 333 K (140° F)<br>and 100% RH | 68.9<br>(10.0)      |                 | 44.1<br>(6.4)              |                 |                     |                 |
| % fiber volume (laminate)                       | 54.0                | 62-64           | 68.0                       | $\approx$ 60.0  | 55.0                | 56.0            |
| % resin solids (prepreg)                        |                     | $\approx$ 40.0  |                            | $\approx$ 40.0  |                     | $\approx$ 38.0  |

<sup>a</sup>Values given in GN/m<sup>2</sup> for modulus, MN/m<sup>2</sup> for stress  
( ) values given in ksi for modulus, ksi for stress

Table 3.—Mechanical Property Sampling Data (Skin Laminates)<sup>a</sup>

| Test property                    | Narmco<br>T300/5209 |                 | Union Carbide<br>T300/2544 |                 | Hercules<br>AS/3501 |                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                                  | Boeing<br>data      | Vendor<br>data  | Boeing<br>data             | Vendor<br>data  | Boeing<br>data      | Vendor<br>data  |
| Compression ultimate<br>0° at RT | —                   | 1103<br>(160.0) | —                          | 1186<br>(172.0) | —                   | —               |
| Compression modulus<br>0° at RT  | —                   | 117.2<br>(17.0) | —                          | 155.1<br>(22.5) | —                   | —               |
| Tensile ultimate<br>0° at RT     | 1319<br>(191.3)     | 1172<br>(170.0) | 1334<br>(193.7)            | 1200<br>(174.0) | 1452<br>(210.6)     | 1393<br>(202.0) |
| Tensile modulus<br>0° at RT      | 136.5<br>(19.8)     | 124.1<br>(18.0) | 155.1<br>(22.5)            | 141.3<br>(20.5) | 119.3<br>(17.3)     | 106.9<br>(15.5) |
| Shor-beam shear<br>0° at RT      | 77.9<br>(11.3)      | 96.5<br>(14.0)  | 74.5<br>(10.8)             | 103.4<br>(15.0) | 84.1<br>(12.2)      | 93.8<br>(13.6)  |

<sup>a</sup> Values given in GN/m<sup>2</sup> for modulus, MN/m<sup>2</sup> for stress  
( ) Values given in msi for modulus, ksi for stress

## ALUMINUM DETAILS

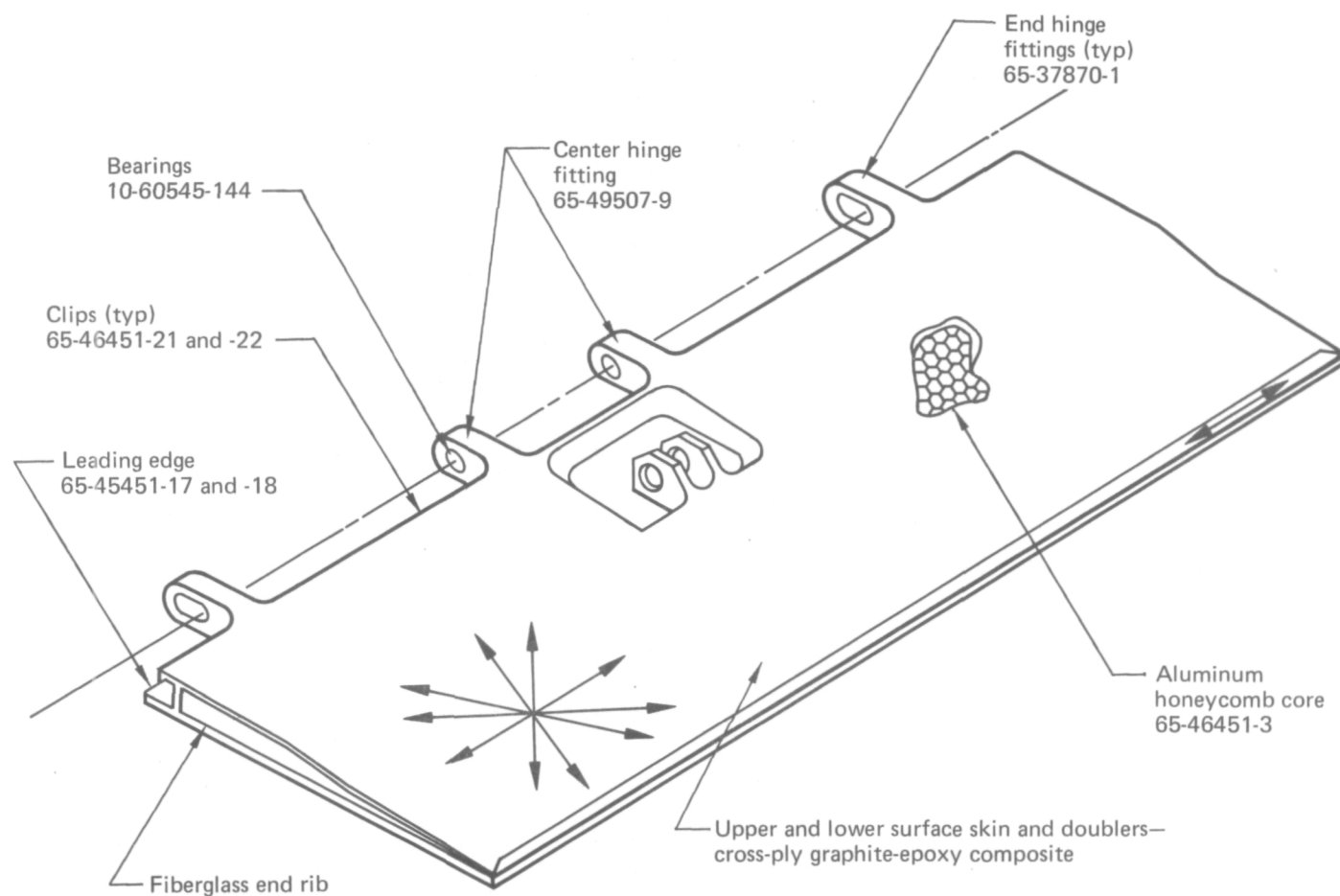
All aluminum detail components common to the composite spoiler and the production 737 spoiler were purchased from the current spoiler subcontractor. Appropriate purchasing orders were placed with the subcontractor to supply these components on a schedule that would support the established production rate. These components are listed in table 4.

Figure 1 shows the relationships of the essential metal details. Engineering drawing 65-76327 appended to this report describes these components in detail.

Table 4.—Aluminum Detail Components

| Part number        | Part name                                    | Material designation   |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 65-49507-8         | Center hinge fitting                         | 7079-T6 aluminum forging   |
| 65-37870-1         | End hinge fitting                            | 7079-T6 aluminum forging   |
| 65-76327-21        | Honeycomb core                               | 5052 aluminum alloy, corrosion resistant, 4.78-mm (3/16-in.) cell, 0.010 gage, nonperforated |
| 65-46451-21<br>-22 | Clip<br>Clip                                 | 7075-T6 extrusion<br>7075-T6 extrusion   |
| 65-46451-17<br>-18 | Leading-edge channel<br>Leading-edge channel | 7075-T6 extrusion<br>7075-T6 extrusion   |
| 10-60545-144       | Bearing                                      | Teflon fabric; self-aligning   |





Note: All structure is adhesively bonded

Figure 1.—Details of 737 Graphite-Epoxy Flight Spoiler

## TOOLING

Table 5 identifies the major tools fabricated for this program and gives the purpose for each. These tools were designed and fabricated as regular production tooling and would be representative in cost and usage of production units.

*Table 5.—Major Tooling Compilation*

| Tool code | Tool name                         | Approximate tool size,<br>mm (in.) |            |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| XAJ       | Spoiler frame assembly jig        | 914 x 1561                         | (36 x 65)  |
| XBAJ      | Flight spoiler panel assembly jig | 914 x 1561                         | (36 x 65)  |
| XLM       | Upper surface skin layup mandrel  | 1778 x 2540                        | (70 x 100) |
| XLM       | End rib layup mandrel             | 457 x 1219                         | (18 x 48)  |
| XLM       | Lower surface skin layup mandrel  | 1778 x 2540                        | (70 x 100) |
| XBAJ      | Honeycomb bond assembly fixture   | 914 x 1561                         | (36 x 65)  |
| BMF       | Bond mill fixture                 | 1067 x 1829                        | (42 x 72)  |

The following describes the functions of the spoiler tools.

- *Frame assembly jig (XAJ 65-76318-3).* This tool is used for locating and holding detail parts, for drilling full-size fastener locations from pilots in details, and for riveting detail parts into 65-76327-9004 frame assembly.
- *Flight spoiler panel assembly jig (XBAJ 65-76318-1).* The panel BAJ is provided for locating and holding the -3 frame assembly, the -5 lower and -6 upper graphite skins, and the -9 and -25 doublers during the 379 K/241(10<sup>3</sup>) Pa (225° F/35 psi) bond cycle. The tool is also used for the two other spoiler configurations that use different graphite material for skins. Spoiler assembly support tooling includes:
  1. XJDT 65-76318-1: a template to show locations of holes common to seals, fillers, end ribs, skins, and channels.
  2. XSHF-5 and -8: shaper fixtures for locating, holding, and trimming outer periphery of the assembly to net configuration.
- *Upper surface skin layup mandrel (XLM 65-76318-6).* This steel tool is used for layup, trim, and cure of four flat graphite skins at one time. The tool is used in conjunction with the tape-layup machine. It has index pins in the excess for locating and holding net-trim templates.
- *End rib layup mandrel (XLM-3).* The rib mandrel provides for layup and cure of -3 and -4 fiberglass end ribs on one tool. A shaper fixture is used to hold and trim the ribs and to make a taper in the -5 wedge strip after bonding.

- *Lower surface skin layup mandrel* (XLM 65-76318-5). This high-temperature fiberglass tool (fig. 2) is used to lay up, trim, and cure four contoured graphite skins at one time. The tool uses the methods established in reference 4. It is used in conjunction with the tape-layup machine and, similar to the -6 tool, has index pins in the outer excess for locating and holding trim templates.
- *Honeycomb bond assembly fixture* (XBAJ 65-76318-3). This fixture (fig. 3) provides for locating and holding the 65-76327-9004 frame assembly and the 65-76327-21 honeycomb core during the bond cycle.
- *Bond mill fixture* (BMF 65-17348-3). The mill fixture is a Boeing 727 spoiler tool that has an interchange support bar with hinge point locator for the 737 graphite spoilers.

### SPOILER PRODUCTION

Figure 4 shows the composite spoiler production schedule, together with the preproduction activities of tooling and procurement necessary prior to production of the first unit. Spoiler production was expected to reach a maximum rate of one per day.

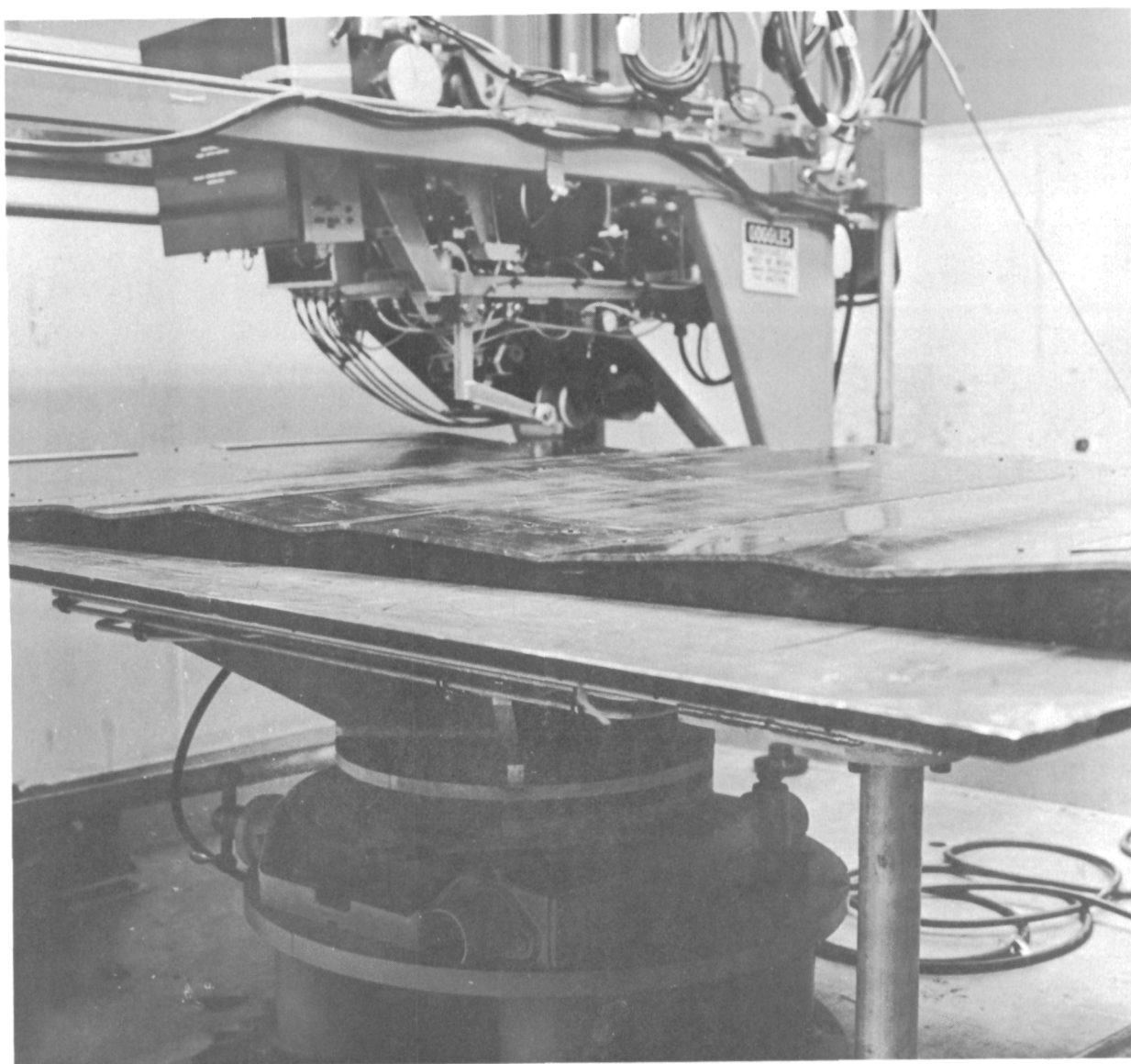
The number of completed spoiler units did not match the scheduled completion curve (fig. 4). Several problems associated with the startup of production account for this difference. Among these problems were:

- Inability of bond assembly jig to maintain the -4 honeycomb assembly in position prior to second-stage bonding of graphite skins
- Inability of bond assembly jig to maintain graphite skins in proper position during bonding operation
- Mechanical malfunction of multilevel color C-scan equipment, which delayed nondestructive test (NDT) operations for a period of 4 weeks (periodic verifilm operations were utilized as an assist during this period)
- Engineering error in end rib design, which necessitated tool rework and scrapping of initial production of end ribs

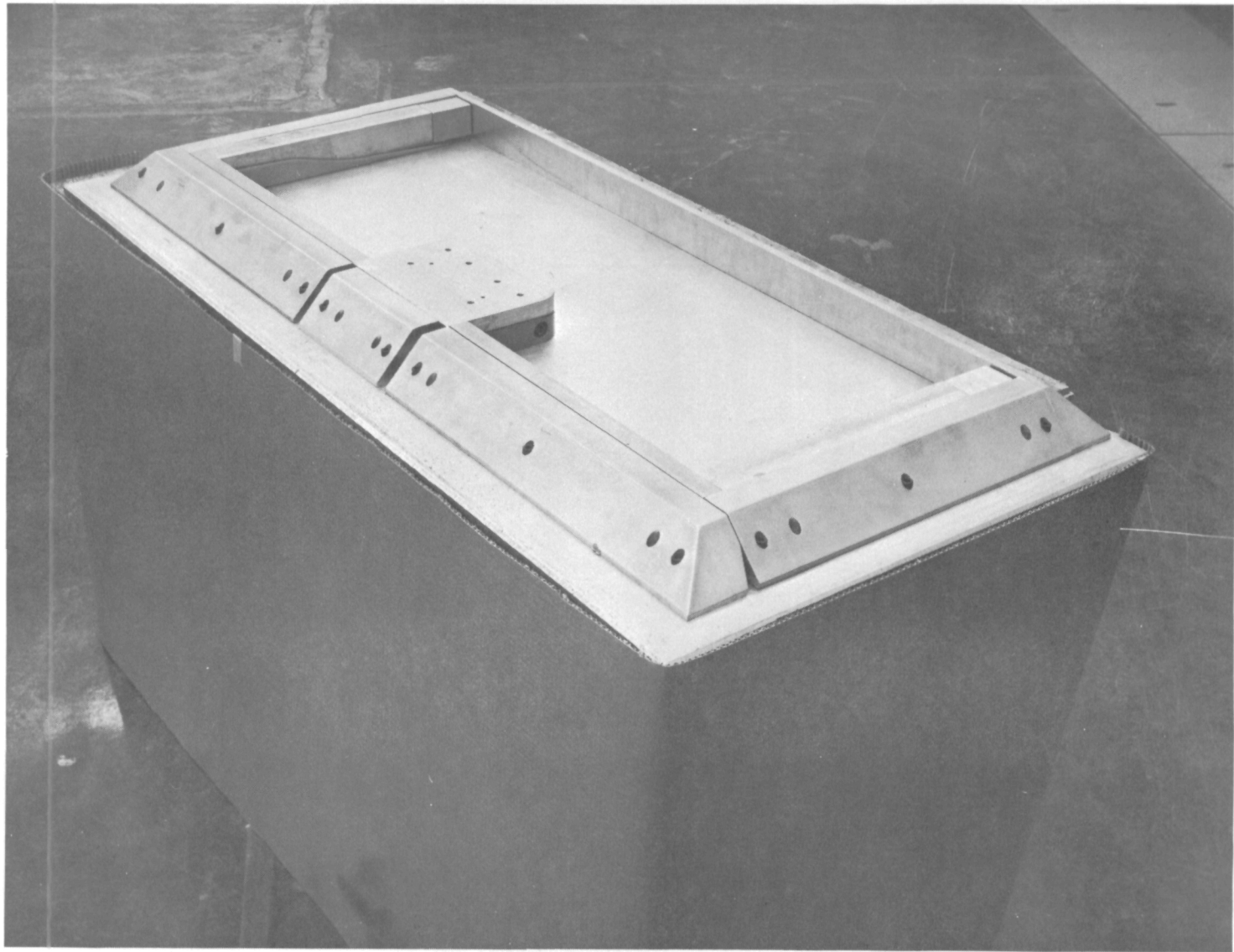
While the composite spoiler production rate did not meet the originally established schedule, all the spoiler shipments to the participating airlines were met as scheduled.

In general, the procedure for production of the spoilers (fig. 5) consisted of:

- Machine laying and autoclave curing the graphite-epoxy flat and contoured skins
- Chemically cleaning and priming the aluminum spar details (hinge fitting, leading-edge channel, end ribs, and clips)
- Riveting together the spar details



*Figure 2.—High-Temperature Fiberglass Tool*



*Figure 3.—Honeycomb Bond Assembly Fixture*

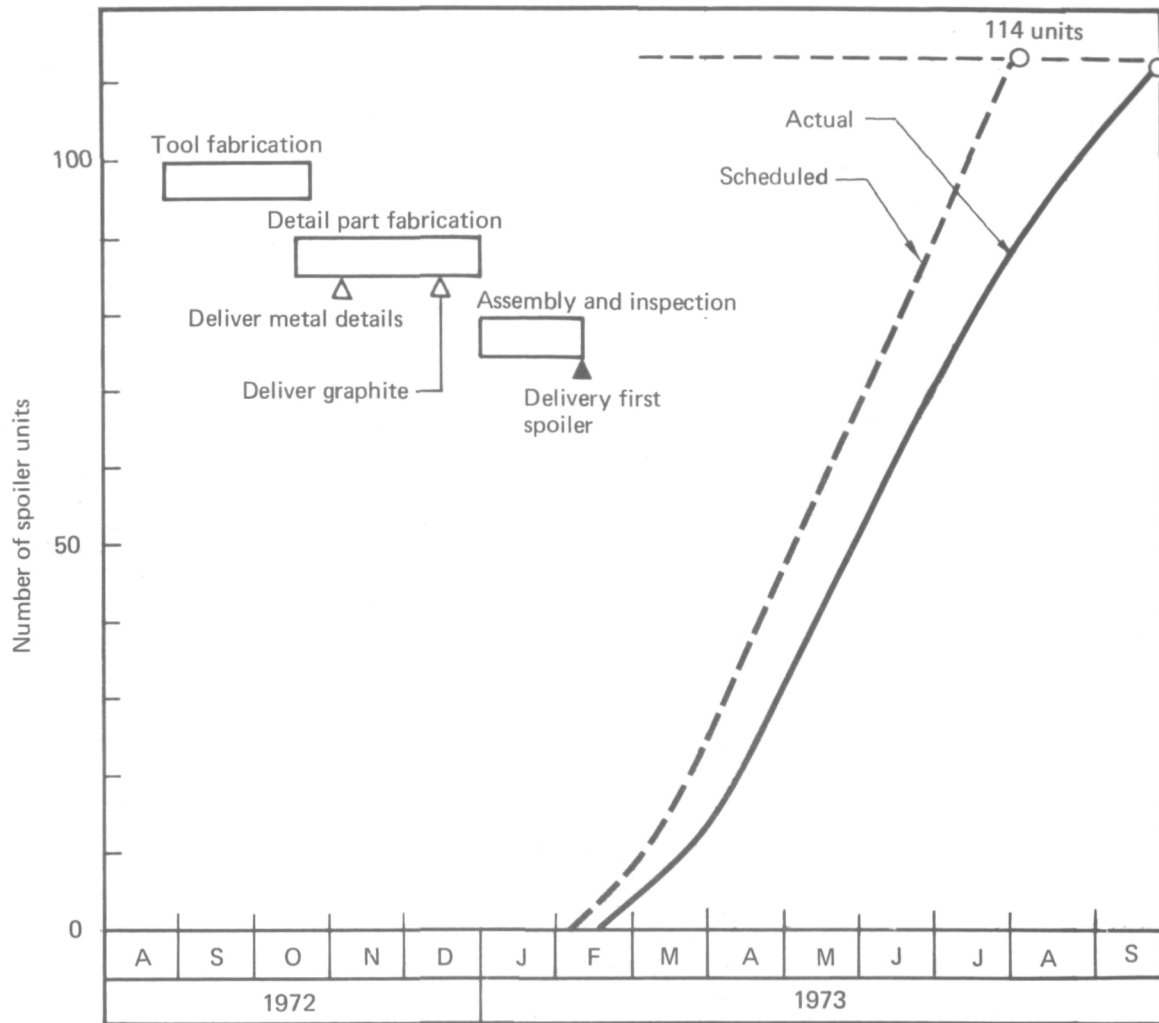
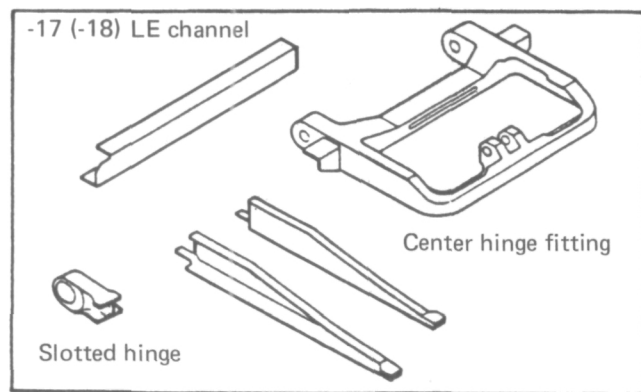
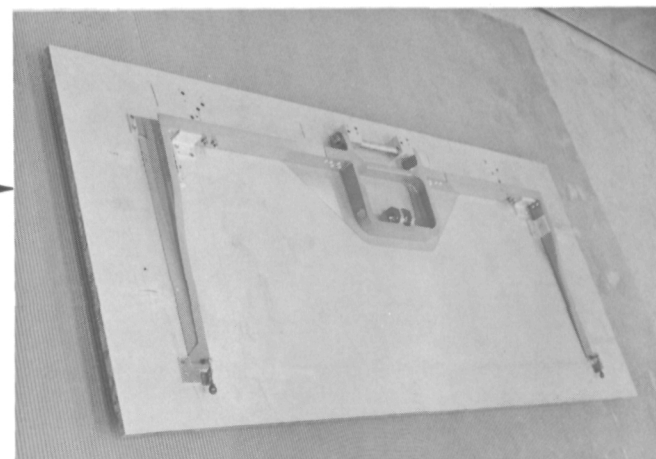


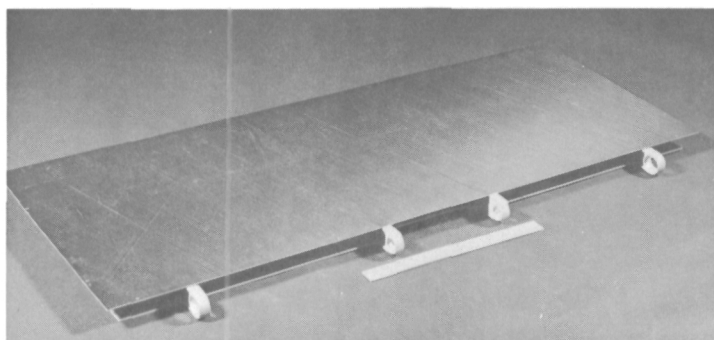
Figure 4.—Composite Spoiler Production Schedule



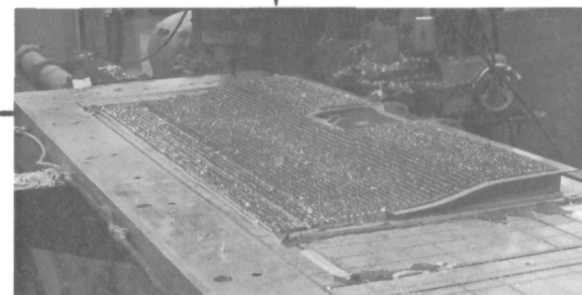
Detail Parts



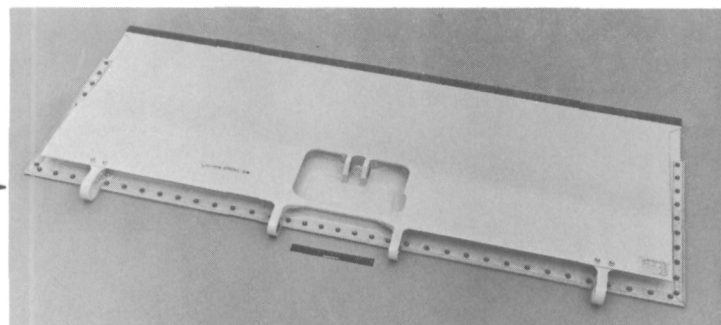
Frame Assembly



Second-Stage  
Bond Assembly



First-Stage Bond Assembly  
(Stabilized Core)



Complete  
Spoiler  
Assembly

Figure 5.—Spoiler Assembly Sequence



- Bonding the spar subassembly to aluminum core; core stabilized with film adhesive, then bonded to spar
- Machining the core and assembly bonding the graphite-epoxy skins and spar-core subassembly

Since program requirements dictated that all spoilers carry unique identification via serial numbers, the system of serial number assignment shown in table 6 was utilized for identification.

*Table 6.—Serialization Schedule*

| Graphite tape supplier | Spoiler part number | Serial numbers assigned |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Union Carbide          | 65-76327-1          | 0001—0040               |
| Narmco                 | 65-76327-2          | 0041—0080               |
| Hercules               | 65-76327-3          | 0081—0120               |

Another contractual requirement for this program was the establishment of an "accountability log." This log was intended to contain the production records relating to each individual spoiler unit so that future events in the environmental exposure portion of the program could be referred back to the production records for explanation and/or problem solutions. Since the production planning paper carried all the detailed production information for each individual spoiler unit, plus the paperwork relating to special handling or repairs associated with a particular spoiler, the planning paper itself was preserved by the program manager as the accountability log, together with any special paper (such as NDT records), to permit a review of each spoiler's fabrication history and/or physical status at time of delivery to the participating airline.

Preparation of the graphite-epoxy tape and adhesive-bonding operations were performed in a limited contamination area that met the requirements specified below.

- The room shall not be a thoroughfare and entry shall be restricted to those actually involved in fabrication operations.
- The temperature shall be maintained at 288 to 300 K (60° to 80° F).
- No smoking or eating shall be allowed.
- The area shall be kept closed. Doors and openings shall be closed when not in use.
- All materials, tools, parts, or equipment shall be free of dirt, oil, grease, or other contaminants.

- The use of unapproved parting agents, silicone lubricants, grease, talc, waxes, or similar materials is prohibited in the limited contamination area.
- Table tops, cutting tools, and hand tools shall be wiped with methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) at the beginning of each shift of operation.
- The floor shall be swept and vacuum cleaned at the end of each shift. The floor shall be damp mopped at least once per week.
- Overhead construction shall be cleaned at least once per month.
- No process or operation that produces dust, spray, fumes, or particulate matter shall be permitted within the limited contamination area.
- A positive pressure differential shall be maintained so that unfiltered air does not enter the area through access doors or other openings.
- All personnel within the limited contamination area shall wear clean white gloves unless a specific operation requires use of bare hands.
- Inlet filters on the air supply system shall be changed at least once per month.

#### **GRAPHITE SKIN FABRICATION**

One of the manufacturing goals of the program was to reduce the layup time for the graphite skins to 4.1 man-hours per skin. Layup time in this report includes tool preparation, laying and trimming of the graphite skins, damming, application of bleeder, and bagging ready for cure. Machine layup was not accomplished for all the graphite skins, and our goals for tape-laying efficiency were not attained for three reasons:

1. Poor tape quality
2. Carrier paper too thin and not tough enough
3. Machine inadequacies

#### **TAPE QUALITY**

Prior to receipt of the initial incremental shipment of graphite tape, training operations on the tape-laying equipment were in progress using leftover tape of lower quality than that to be employed in spoiler production. Upon receipt of the initial tape shipment (Union Carbide Thornel 300/2544), a set of four upper spoiler skins (65-76327-8) was laid up on the layup tool. The layup was judged to be of superior quality upon Engineering inspection. The tape material also appeared to be of superior quality when compared with tape utilized on the Boeing research spoiler program.

The completed skin layup proceeded unsuccessfully through the autoclave curing cycle, with the failure attributed to the following:

- The parting film between the skin layup and the tool was inadvertently damaged by cleaning solvents, causing the layup to adhere to the tool.
- The vendor cure cycle used on the layup resulted in excessive bleedout of the resin from the layup.

A revision of the handling procedures in the layup process eliminated the first problem. Coordination with Union Carbide resolved the cure-cycle discrepancy. A revision to the cure cycle was developed by Engineering, and a test run was made to ensure that the parts would release from the tool if the resin content was correct and the release agent coating on the tool was adequate. The next set of four -5 lower skins proved to be acceptable.

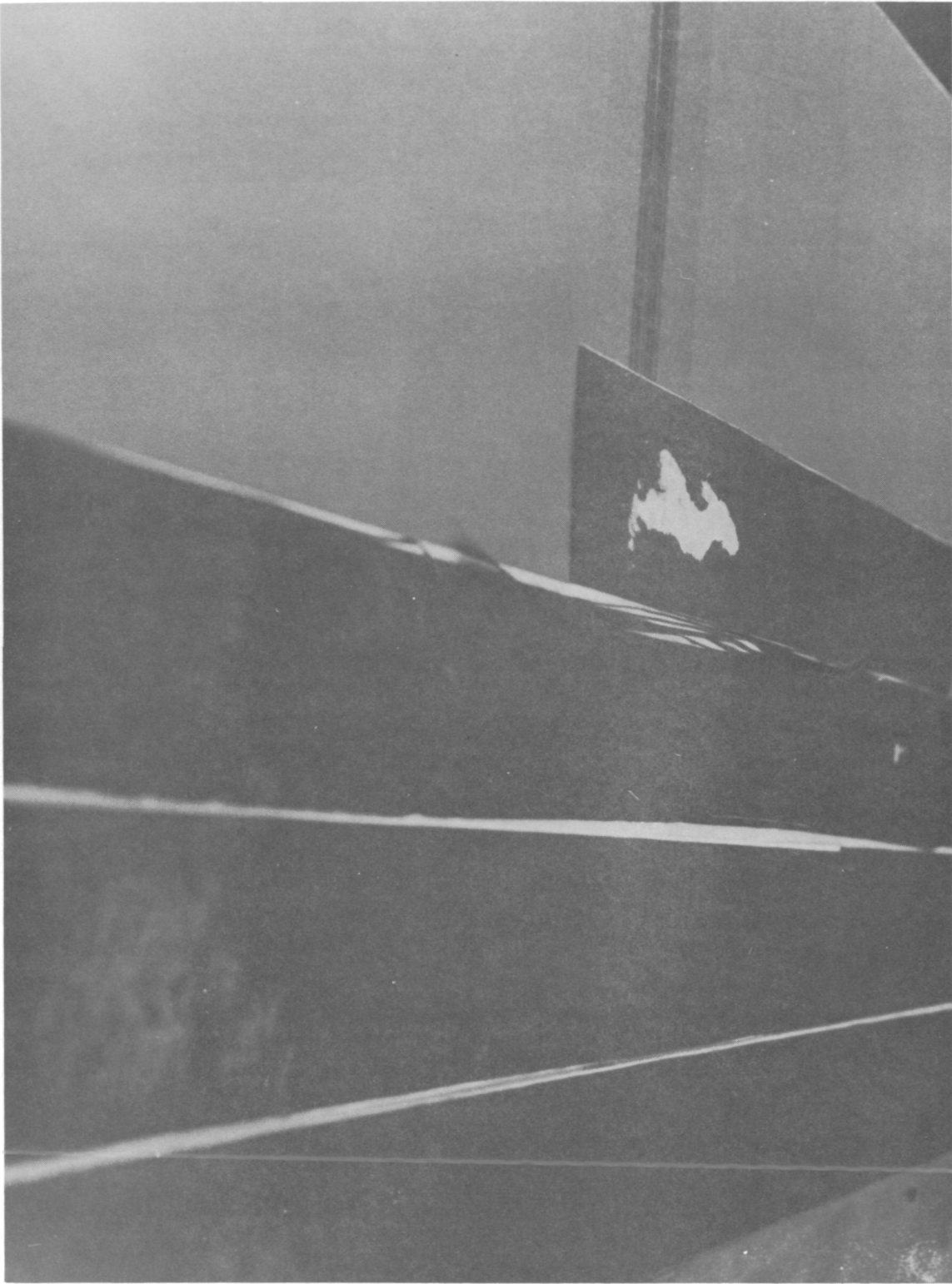
A single "pilot" skin was laid up from the second tape shipment (Hercules) despite the fact that an Engineering rejection had been made on this shipment for quality reasons. This pilot skin was cured and successfully released from the layup tool, demonstrating a successful solution to the sticking problem of the first layup. Tape quality problems appeared when attempts were made to use the Hercules production graphite tape (as opposed to the evaluation sample) for skin layups. Gaps and width variations far in excess of our specified allowances were numerous and random throughout the shipment. Approximately 30 m (100 ft) of tape was removed from each of several reels. Engineering inspection indicated that the material was not acceptable, and the decision was made to return it to the vendor. Figures 6 and 7 are representative of these variations.

The initial shipment of Narmco tape also showed out-of-tolerance gaps and width variations, but to a lesser extent than the Hercules tape. The tape also had shreds of paper left on the carrier paper edges as a result of the slitting operation. The shreds had to be removed from between the edges of the laid tape strands to prevent their inclusion in the laminate.

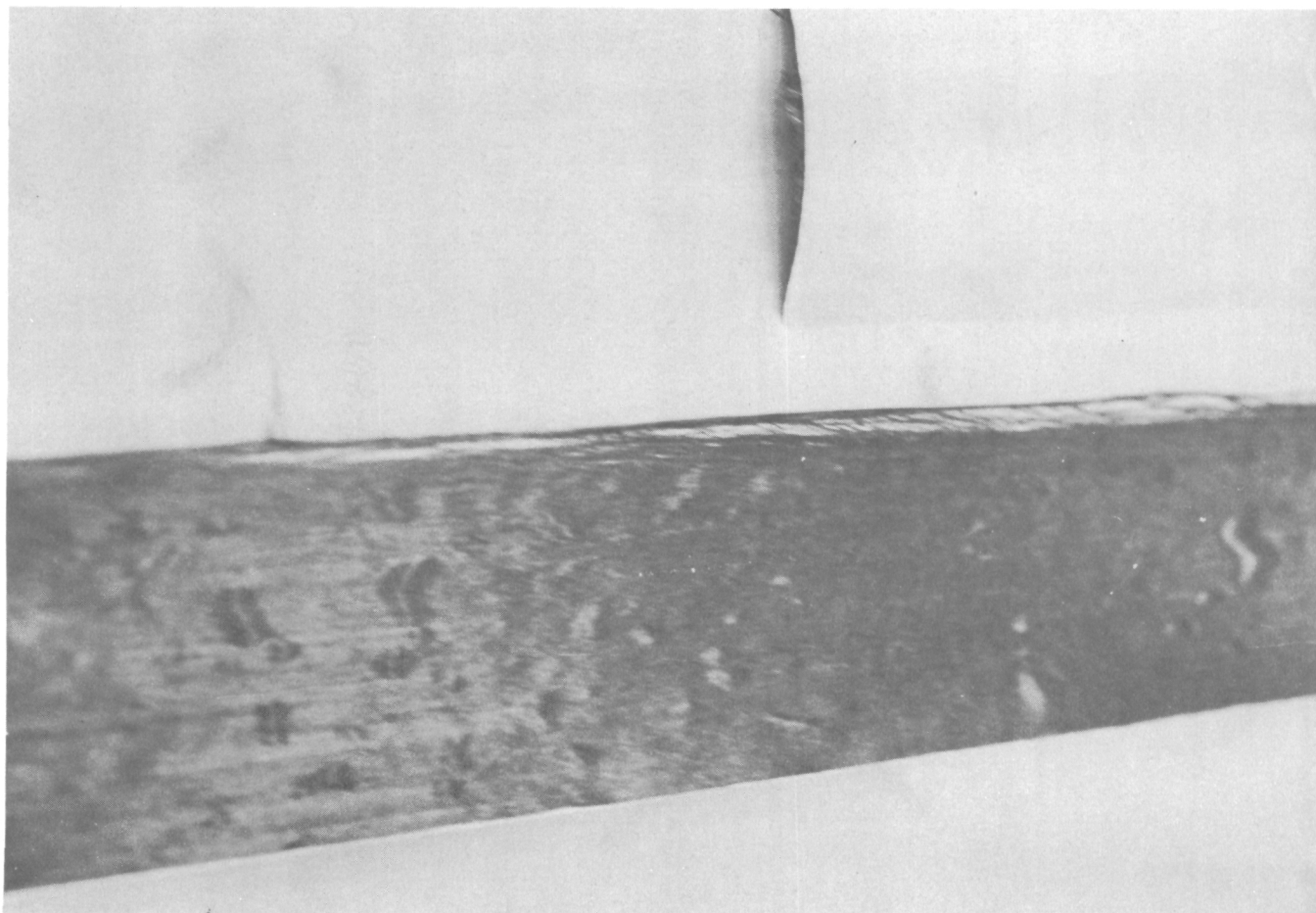
A manufacturing representative was dispatched to the Hercules and Narmco plants to show them the unacceptable defects, explore the reasons for them, and assess the probability of resolving the problems. Both vendors assured the representative that they could and would meet Boeing requirements. Tape subsequently received from Narmco was considered by the shop personnel to be the best received from any source to date. Several layups were made by machine without requiring any significant repair for gap or overlap.

In summary, the following manufacturing assessment of the skin layup experiences was made concerning the several prepreg materials used in this program.

- *Union Carbide T300/2544.* Tape quality was generally good with respect to dimensional control, fiber alignment, and control of internal variations. Tack control, and variation of tack from batch to batch, appeared to be the major



*Figure 6.—Graphite Prepreg Tape Samples—Representative Rejectable Conditions*



*Figure 7.—Graphite Prepreg Tape Samples—Representative Rejectable Conditions*

problems. When the tack became low, the mechanical layup had to be followed with substantial handwork to properly position and press down the tape edges.

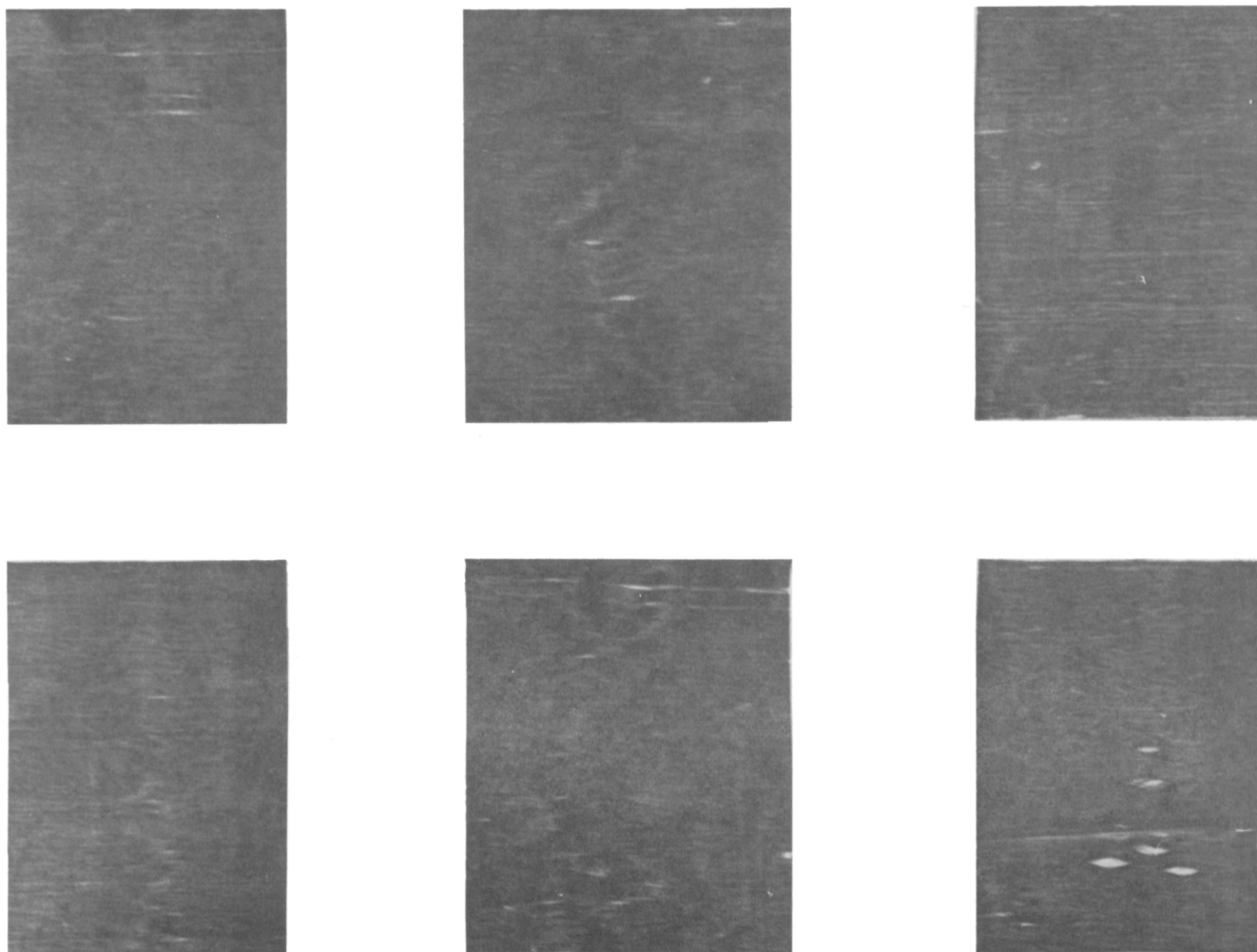
- *Narmco T300/5209*. Since the early quality problems with the Narmco prepreg, the Narmco prepreg quality has shown significant improvement. Dimensional control, straightness of tows and fibers, and tack have been evaluated as satisfactory or better. The tape performs well in the layup machine and several layups have been completed with virtually no handwork.
- *Hercules AS/3501*. To correct the significant tape quality problems discussed previously, the vendor supplied a representative 4.5-kg (10-lb) lot for evaluation by Auburn Manufacturing. The evaluation was conducted on the tape-laying machine, and a considerable improvement in tape quality was noted in the set of skins made from this lot. However, subsequent shipments received in May and June showed some deterioration in quality, notably in tack and tow alignment control. The most severe examples of the lack of tow alignment are voids produced by "wandering" tows, examples of which are shown in figure 8, where segments were cut from Hercules run 411. Gap defects, such as those shown in figure 9, occurred with less frequency and were easier to detect and remove. The most severe problem, however, was the low tack level.

The tape systems that used solvated resin impregnation tended to be considerably drier on the exposed surface (the surface of the tape that would normally be applied to the tool or previously applied ply) than they were on the surface next to the carrier. This meant that the graphite tape stuck (tacked) to its carrier much harder than it did to the tool or previously laid ply. In many instances it was virtually impossible to remove the carrier from the laid tape without dislodging the tape from its assigned location. Many man-hours could have been saved if the tape would have released from the carrier more easily or if the tack of the previously laid ply (or tool surface in the case of the first ply) could have been considerably increased. Adhesive primer was evaluated as a tack improver; however, it dried rapidly and did not solve the problem.

Considerable effort was expended on this program to obtain prepreg tape quality significantly better than that available from the industry prior to implementation of this program. The need for improved tape quality to permit the use of automatic tape-laying equipment has been satisfactorily demonstrated. Continued insistence on the established level of tape quality required will be beneficial to future composite production programs.

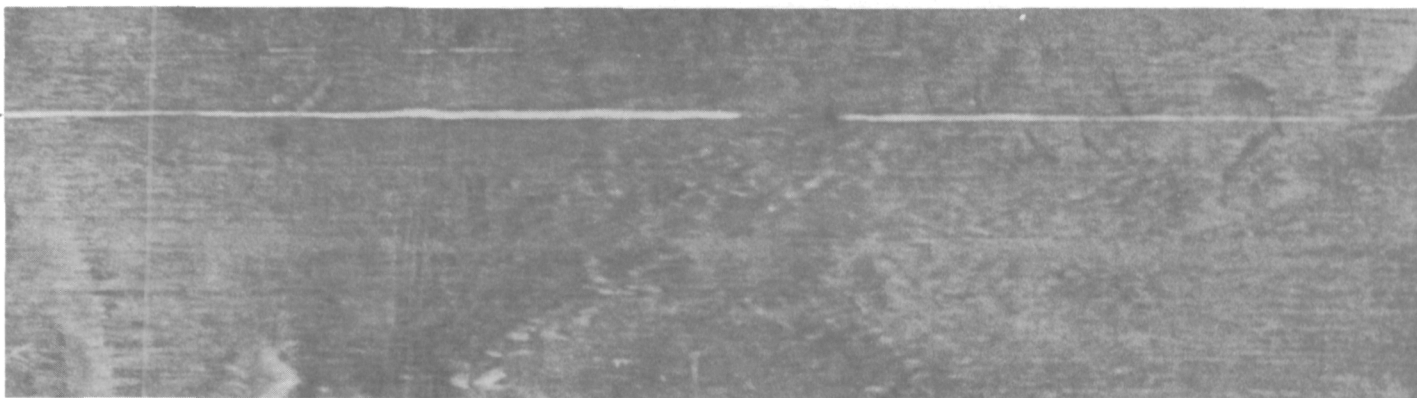
## MACHINE LAYUP

Because the tape carrier plays a most important role in attempts to mechanically lay the tape, a concept of tape laying was developed around the premise that we would be able to cut the tape consistently without cutting the carrier. On small test panels, this met with some success and encouragement. On the production parts, however, we were unsuccessful. A check of the carrier paper used on the test tapes showed the paper to be 0.14 mm (0.0055 in.) thick (average) and highly resistant to cutting. The paper on the

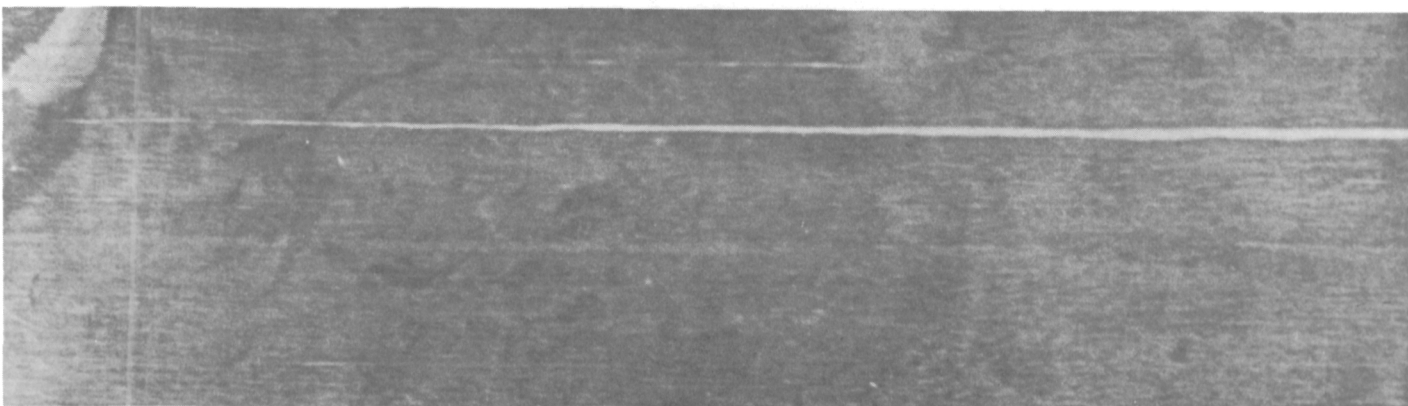


*Figure 8.—Voids Due to Lack of Tow Alignment*





Gap continued



*Figure 9.—Gap Defect Example*



production tapes was all in the 0.089 to 0.102 mm (0.0035 to 0.004 in.) range. We were unable to locate heavier paper available in time to support the program. The tape was therefore cut by hand even when it was laid by machine. Even under these conditions, the tape could be laid faster by machine than it could by hand if the tack was at all reasonable.

One rather significant problem was that of maintaining a parting surface on the steel BAJ for the upper surface skins. Unless the parting agent (Frekote 33) was freshly applied before each layup, the skins tended to stick (bond) to the tool surface. Several skins were irreparably damaged this way. There was no serious sticking of the skins to the epoxy-plastic contoured tool for the lower skins. At the conclusion of the contract effort, however, the gel coat on the plastic tool was breaking down and would have soon required major rework.

The tape-laying machine had two notable deficiencies, as illustrated in figure 10. First, it would not lay tape to the contours involved because the delivery head did not maintain normalcy to the contour. Future machines should sense contour and rotate the head on the Z-axis to keep it perpendicular to the average contour. The other problem with the machine was that the centerline of the delivery head was located 140 mm (5.5 in.) from the centerline of the vertical motion way. This eccentricity caused wide variations in the actual pressure on the tape at delivery. It also permitted pressure variation across the width of the tape because of cantilever deflection. Future machines must avoid this problem also.

During the program, requirements were established for future machine and tape improvement. These have been coordinated with prepreg tape manufacturers and incorporated into designs for an improved tape layup head.

## SKIN PROCESSING SEQUENCE

The following procedure was used to fabricate the upper graphite skin laminate (65-76327-8, -9, and -10).

- Set up the steel tool (XLM 65-76318-6) (fig. 11) on the table of the tape laydown machine.
  1. Clean the working face of the tool with MEK and dry for a minimum of 15 minutes at 288 to 302 K (70° to 85° F).
  2. Apply Frekote 33 parting agent to the tool.
  3. Apply a thin coat of BMS 5-51, type 1, adhesive primer to the tool surface to cover. Allow primer to air dry for 30 minutes at 288 to 302 K (70° to 85° F).
- Machine lay the skin laminates (figs. 12 and 13).
  1. Remove the total required amount of graphite-epoxy tape from cold storage and allow to warm at room temperature in the sealed package.

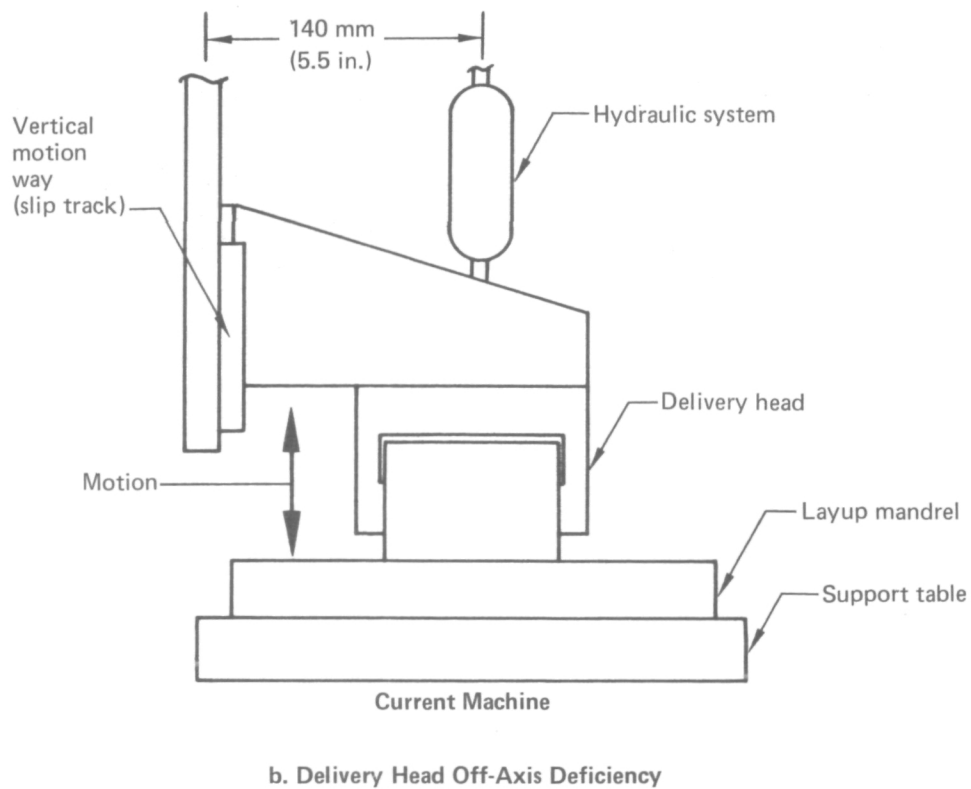
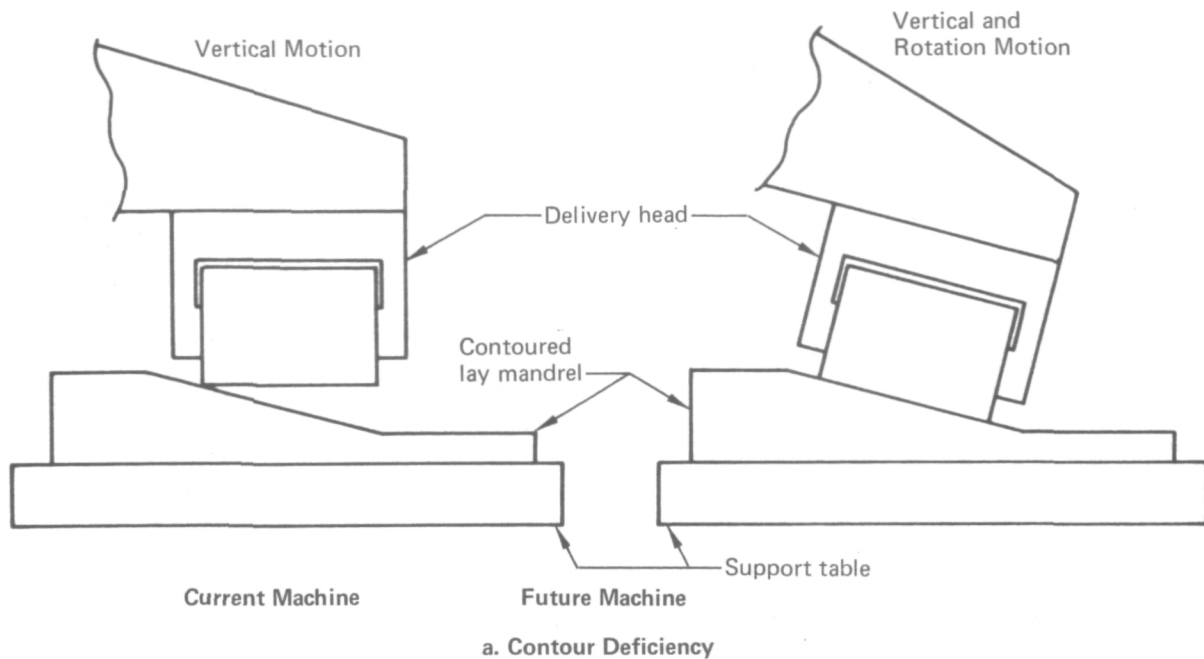
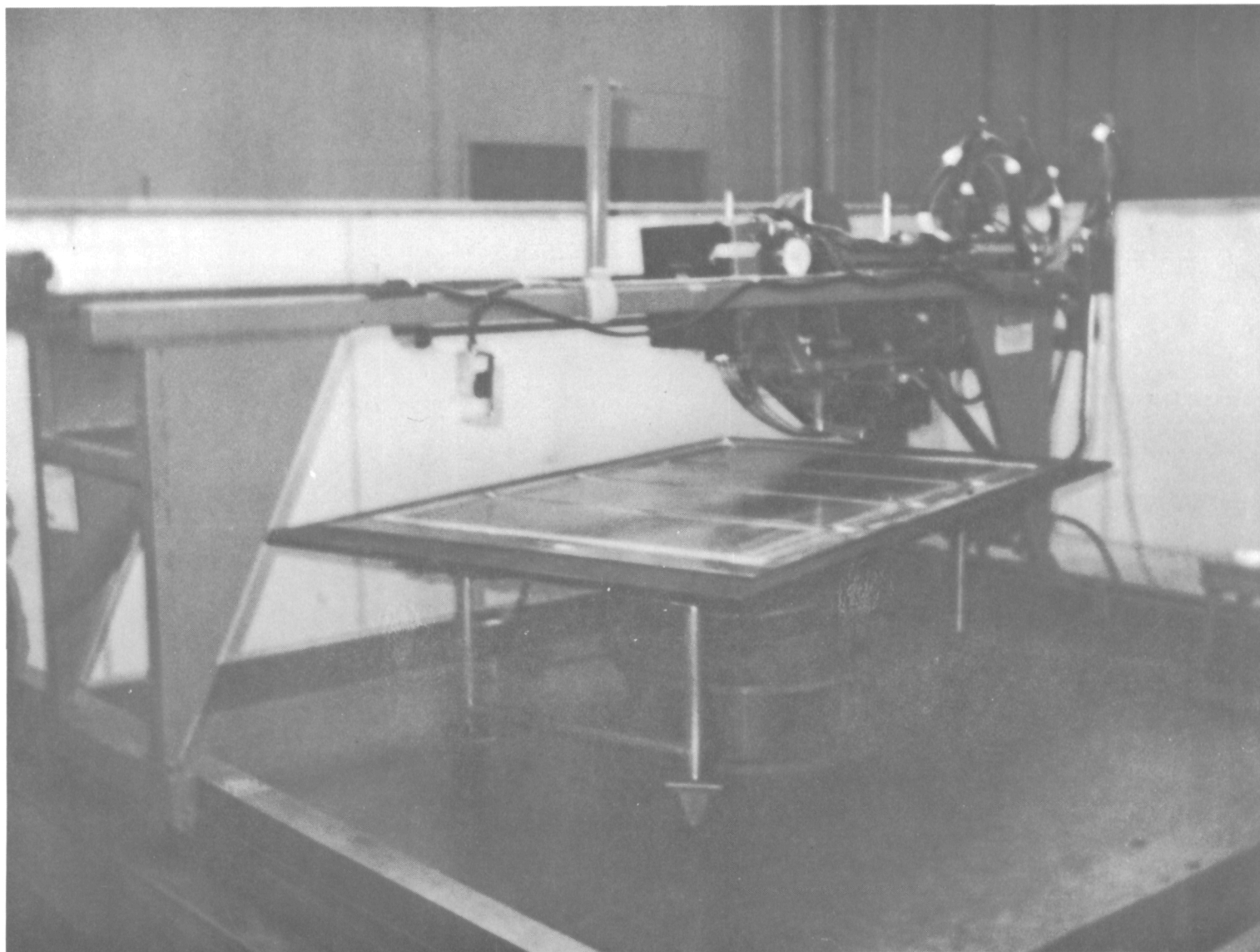


Figure 10.—Tape-Laying Machine Deficiencies



*Figure 11.—Positioning of Steel Tool on Tape-Layup Machine*

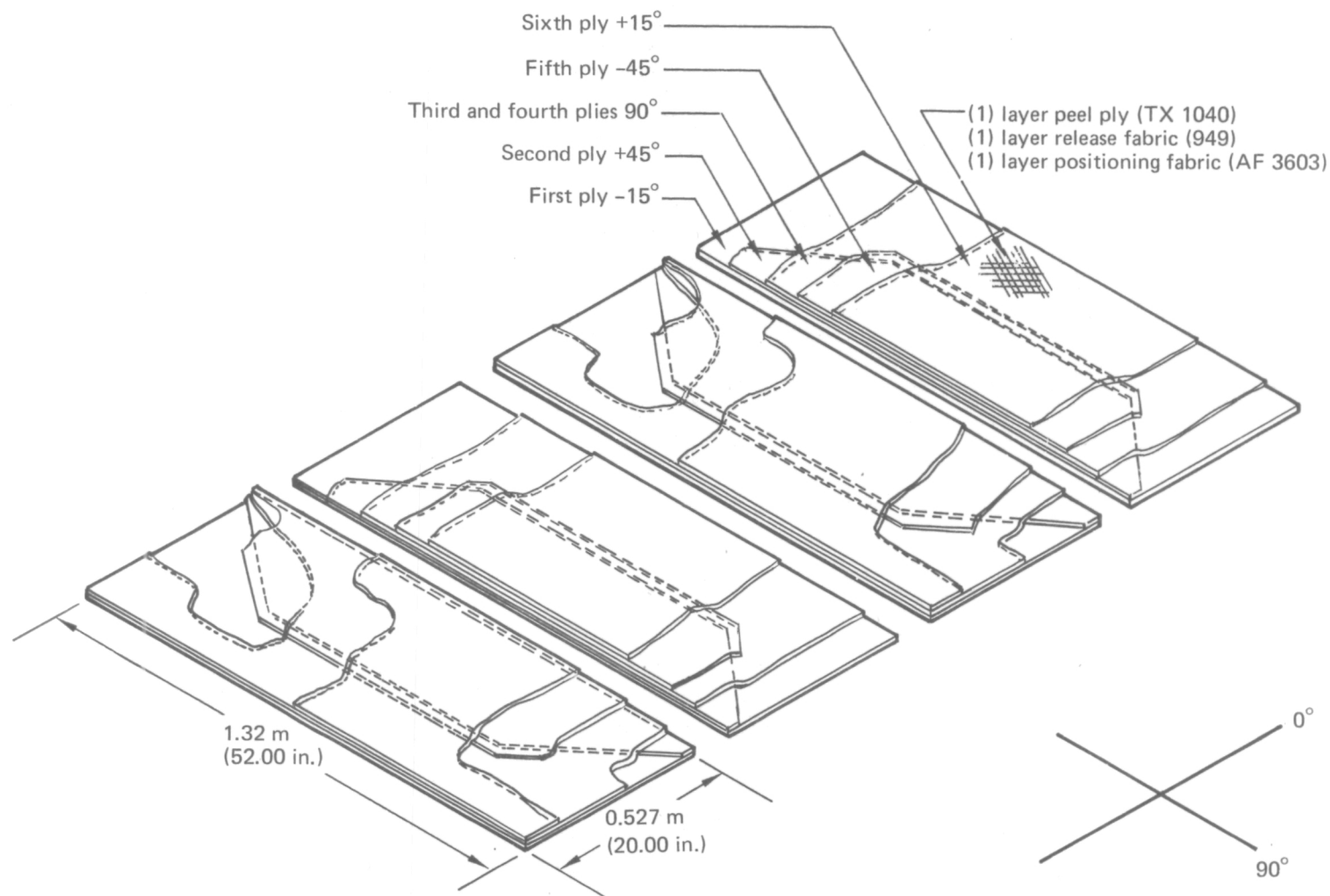


Figure 12.—Layup Sequence of Upper Surface Skin Laminate

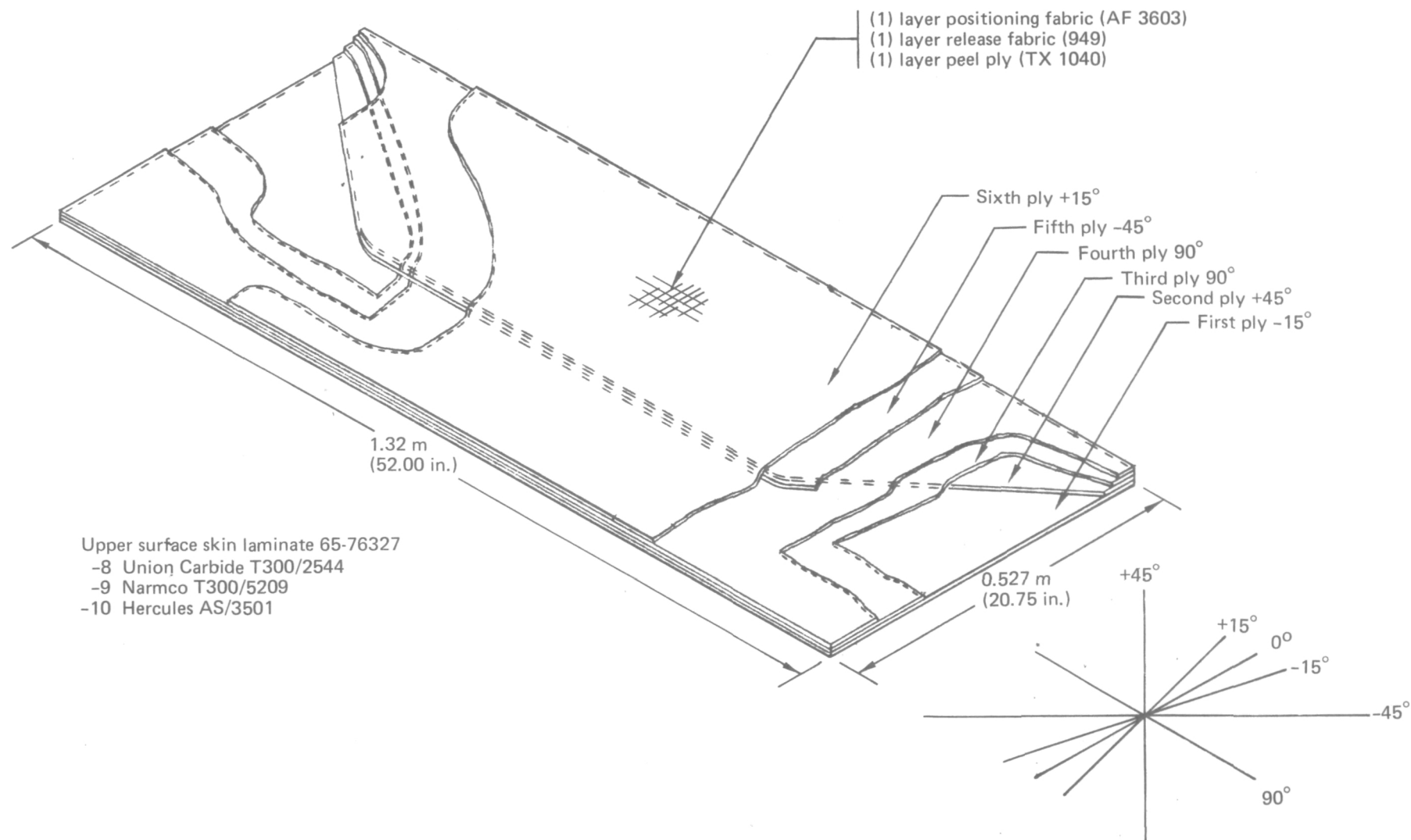
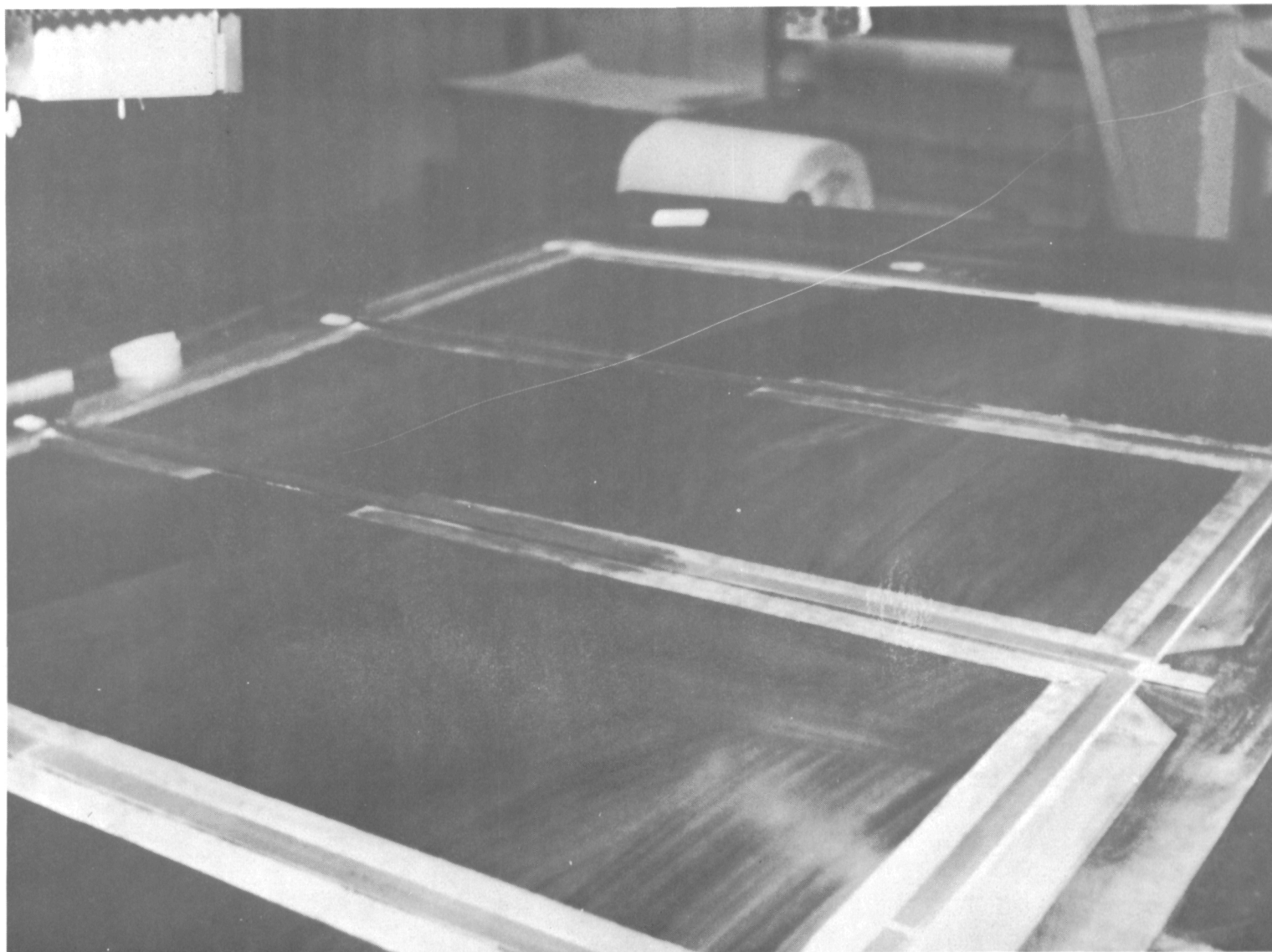
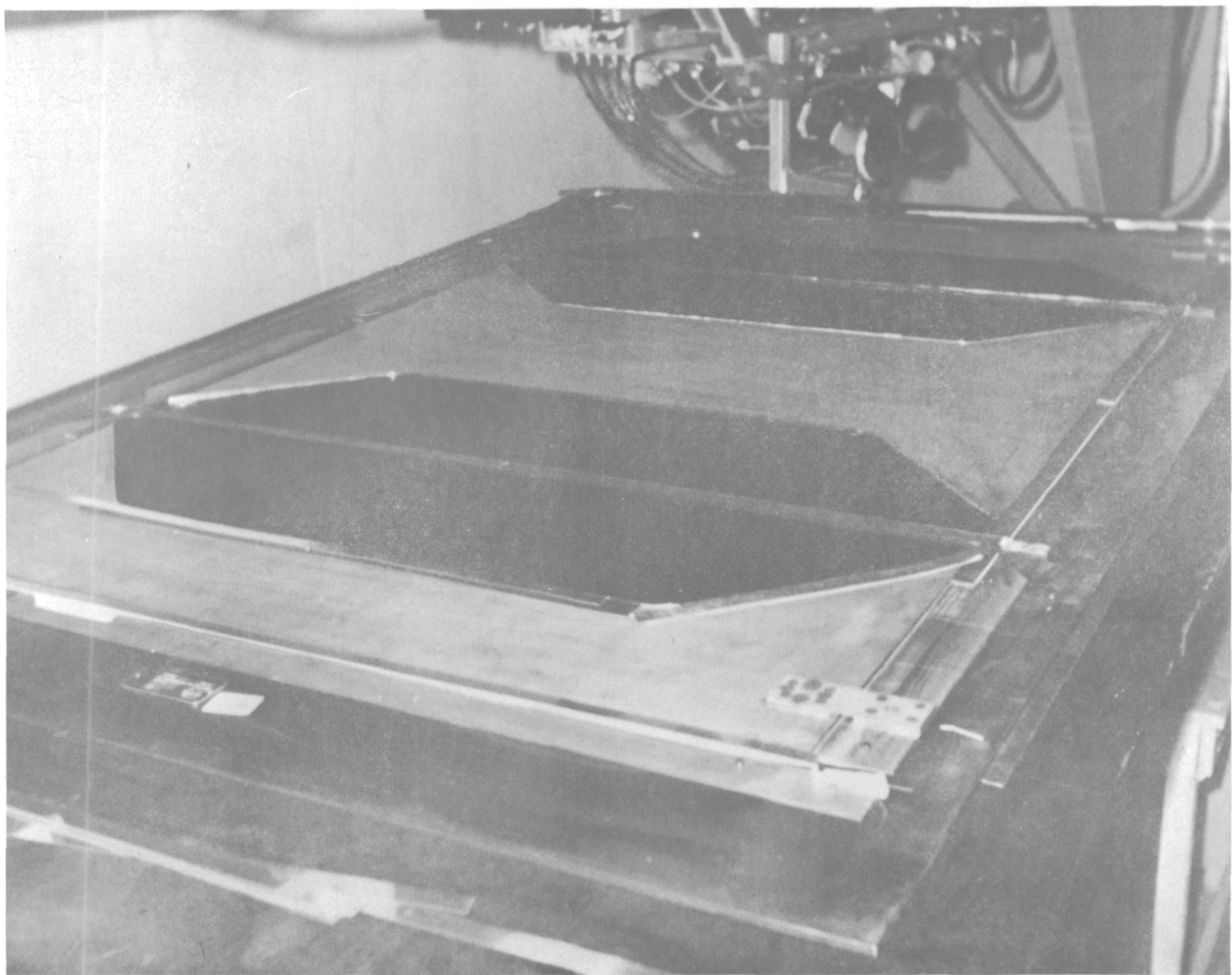


Figure 13.—Ply Orientation of Upper Surface Skin Laminate

2. Load the tape spool on tape machine and run checkout procedures.
3. Place the first-ply cutter template on the layup tool and secure with pins.  
Note: Also used to trim third, fourth, and sixth plies.
4. Lay down tape at  $-15^{\circ}$  orientation until the first ply is completed (fig. 14).
5. Remove the trim material from the cutter template.
6. Place the second-ply cutter template onto the first-ply cutter template and secure with pins.
7. Lay down tape at  $+45^{\circ}$  orientation until the second ply is completed (fig. 15).
8. Remove the second-ply cutter template and trim material.
9. Lay down tape at  $90^{\circ}$  orientation until the third ply is completed.
10. Remove the trim material from the cutter template.
11. Lay down tape at  $90^{\circ}$  orientation until the fourth ply is completed (fig. 16).
12. Remove the trim material from the cutter template.
13. Place the fifth-ply cutter template onto the first-ply cutter template and secure with pins.
14. Lay down tape at  $-45^{\circ}$  orientation until the fifth ply is completed.
15. Remove the fifth-ply cutter template and trim material.
16. Lay down tape at  $+45^{\circ}$  orientation until the sixth ply is completed.
17. Remove the cutter template from layup tool.
18. Remove the tool from tape laydown machine and place on work table.
19. Carefully solvent clean and wipe dry tool surface around laminate using care not to get solvent on laminate.



*Figure 14.—Primed Tool and Laydown of First ( $-15^{\circ}$ ) Ply*



*Figure 15.—Laydown of 45° Doubler Ply*

*Model 2, 1944, 1945, 1946*



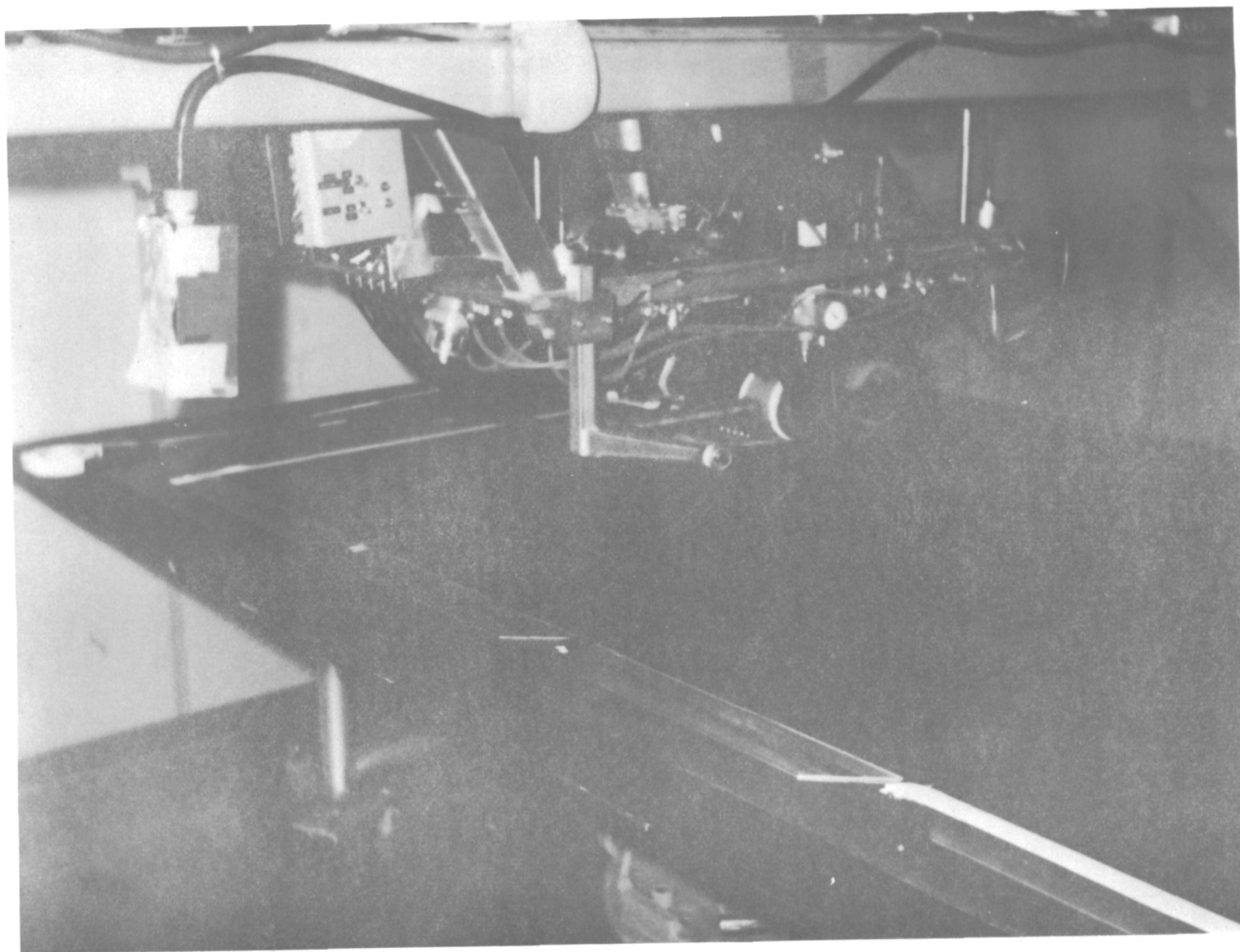


Figure 16.—Laydown of 90° Skin Ply

20. Make entries on tape recordings as follows:

Graphite-epoxy preimpregnated tape material

Supplier \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Manufacture \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Ft/Yds \_\_\_\_\_

In refrigerated storage date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount removed \_\_\_\_\_ Ft/Yds \_\_\_\_\_

Amount remaining \_\_\_\_\_ Ft/Yds \_\_\_\_\_

EWA number 725001 Work Order 68725

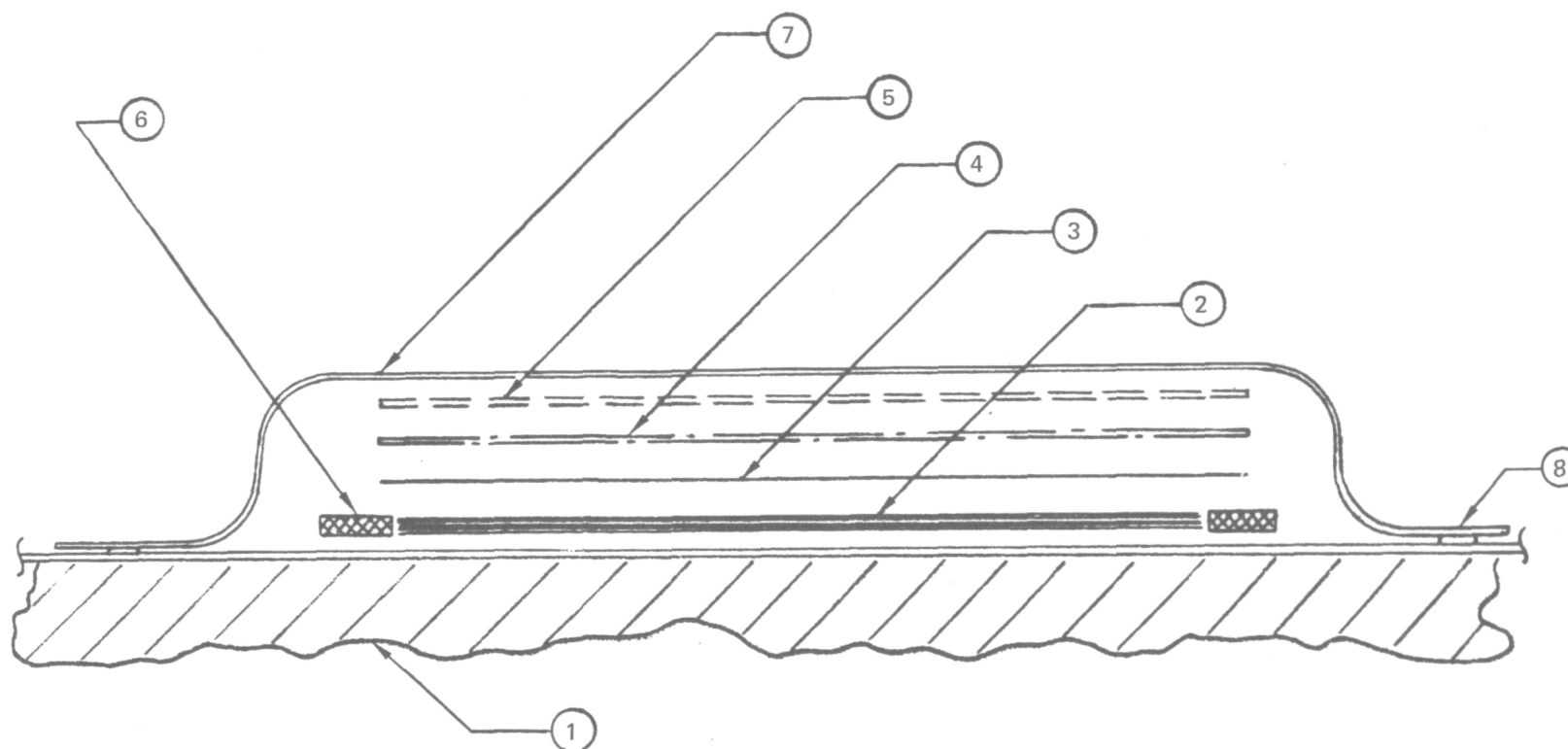
Material removed by \_\_\_\_\_

Repackaged by\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: If portion of graphite remains on tape spool, seal in a plastic bag and store in refrigerator for subsequent usage. Affix date on package and return to refrigerator.

● Apply vacuum bag (fig. 17).

1. Apply corprene material (wrapped with FEP film) all around periphery of laminate. Butt against edge but do not overlap. Secure with nylon tape. Note: Edge bleeding of laminate skin is not permitted.
2. Insert thermocouples to edge of corprene. Secure with teflon tape.
3. Apply vacuum bag sealing tape all around tool face. Apply tape over and under the thermocouple leads.
4. Apply one layer of positioning fabric (3M, AF 3603) to surface of layup.
5. Apply one layer of nylon peel ply (Ferro Corp./Cordo Division style 949) to surface of layup.
6. Apply one layer of bleeder paper (Moehburg Paper CW 1850) to surface of layup.
7. Apply a diaphragm cover of nylon vacuum bag film (Richmond Corp. HS-6262) over entire tool face. Pull wrinkle free and impress into sealing tape.
  - a. Attach a vacuum connection. Slowly pull a vacuum (508 mm (20 in.) of mercury minimum) to the interior of the vacuum bag.



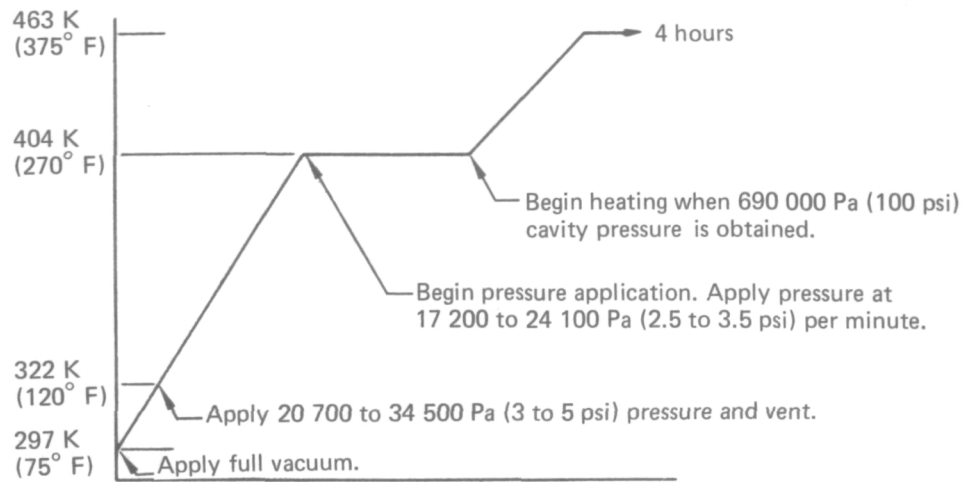
1. Layup mold
2. Graphite-epoxy layup
3. 3M AF 3603 positioning fabric (one layer)
4. Ferro/Cordo Div. 949 nylon peel ply (one layer)
5. Moehburg CW 1850 bleeder paper (two layers)
6. Western Gasket and Packing DK-153 corprene dam
7. Richmond Corp. HS-6262 nylon vacuum bag
8. Schnee-Morehead 5144 vacuum bag sealing tape

Figure 17.—Bagging Sequence

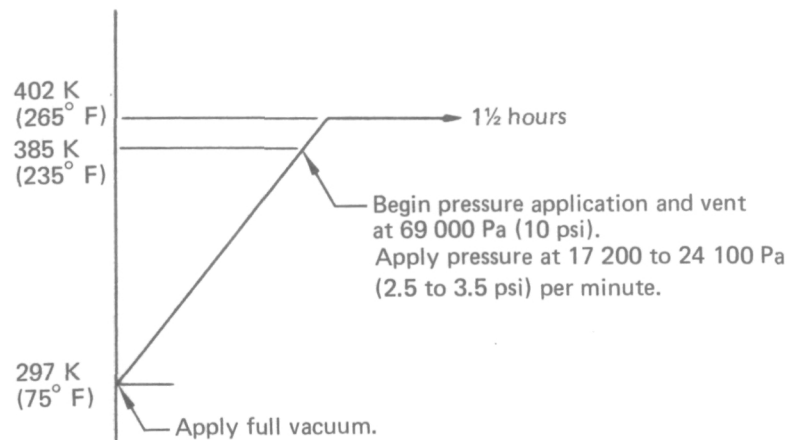
- b. As the air is evacuated, make the bag conform to the shape of the part and keep wrinkles to a minimum. Check for leaks by disconnecting and plugging vacuum line.
  - c. The vacuum gage reading must not drop more than 127 mm (5 in.) of mercury in 1 minute.
- Cure the laminate per the autoclave cycle developed in cooperation with the supplier (fig. 18).
- Remove vacuum bag materials and inspect laminate.
- Visually locate tool onto skin and shape outer periphery to net configuration. Omit all holes—accomplished on assembly.

The procedure used to produce the lower graphite skin laminate (65-76327-5, -6, and -7) was the same as for upper laminate except for laydown of skin plies. The machine laydown operation is given below. Ply orientation is illustrated in figure 19. Note: First ply ( $-15^{\circ}$ ) per drawing becomes eighth ply ( $+15^{\circ}$ ) OML surface when inverted  $180^{\circ}$  on assembly.

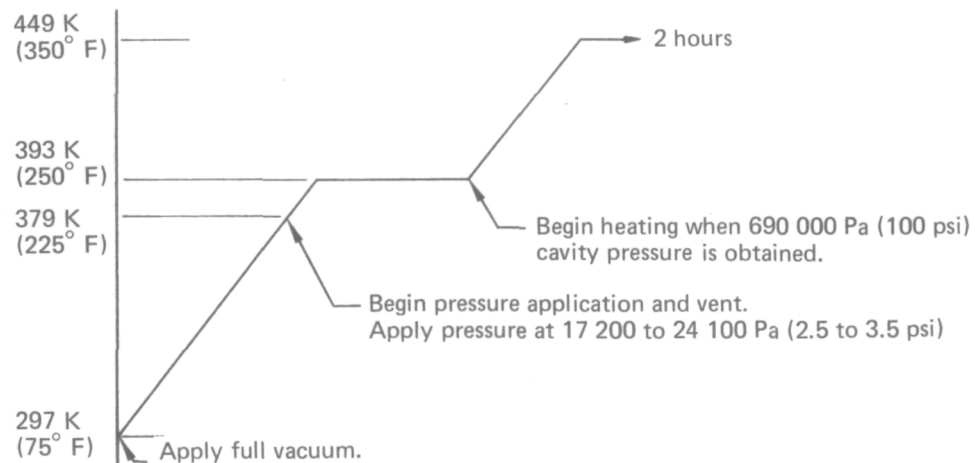
1. Remove the total required amount of graphite-epoxy tape from cold storage and allow to warm at room temperature in the sealed package.
2. Load the tape spool on tape machine and run checkout procedures.
3. Place the outer-periphery-ply cutter templates on the layup tool and secure with pins. Note: Used to trim third, fourth, and eighth plies.
4. Working from eighth ply up (reverse orientation as this ply becomes OML), lay down tape at  $-15^{\circ}$  orientation until the eighth ply is completed.
5. Remove the trim material from the cutter templates.
6. Orient layup, position head, and take one pass at a  $90^{\circ}$  orientation to generate seventh ply.
7. Index head to position and take one pass at a  $90^{\circ}$  orientation to generate sixth ply.
8. Place the doubler-ply templates onto the previously loaded templates and secure with pins.
9. Orient layup and lay down tape at  $+45^{\circ}$  orientation until the fifth ply is completed.
10. Remove the doubler-ply cutter templates and the trim material.
11. Orient layup and lay down tape at  $90^{\circ}$  orientation until the fourth ply is completed.



a. Union Carbide T300/2544



b. Narmco T300/5209



c. Hercules AS/3501

Figure 18.—Laminate Cure Cycle

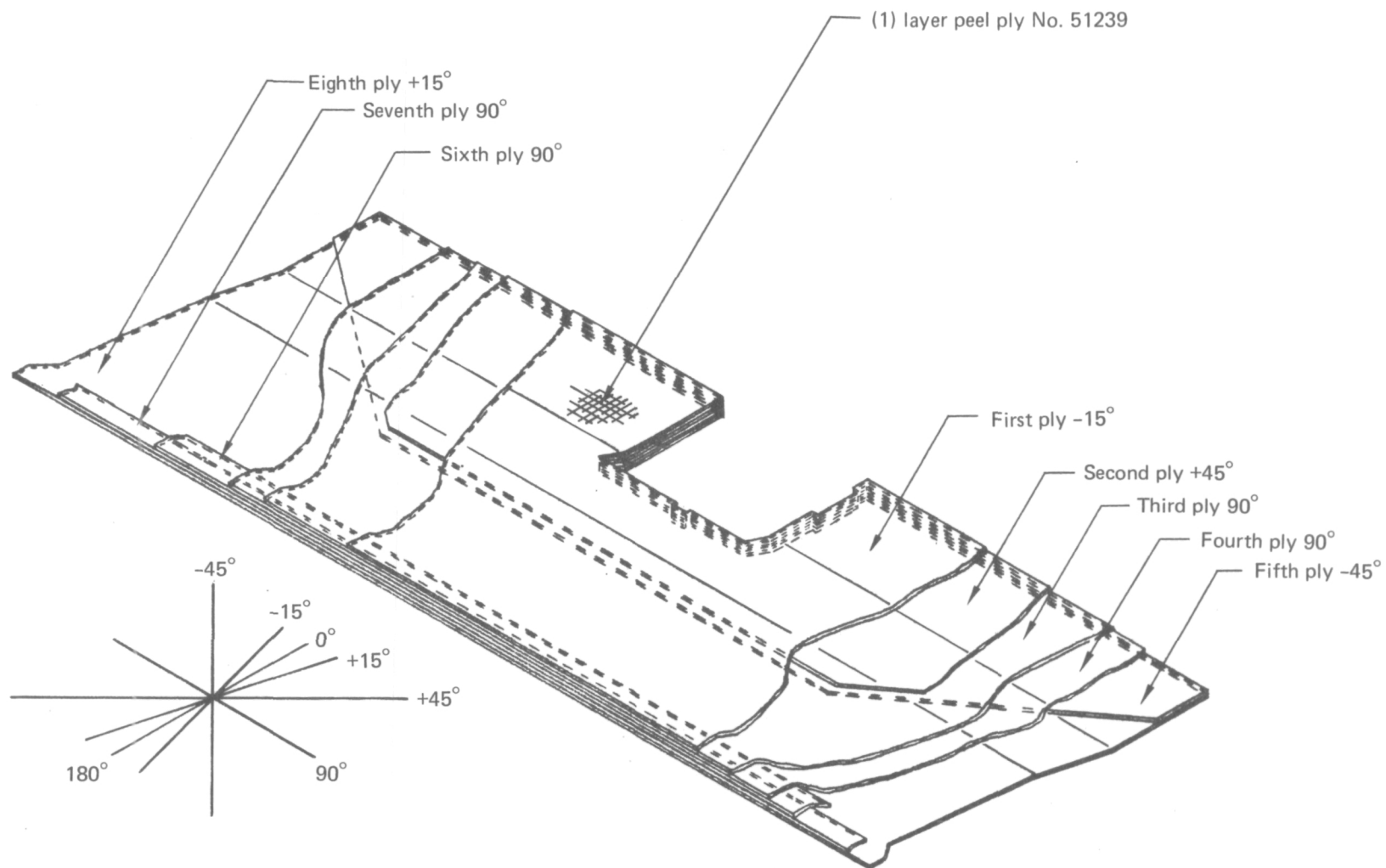


Figure 19.—Ply Orientation of Lower Surface Skin Laminate

12. Remove the trim material from the cutter templates and lay down tape at 90° orientation until the third ply is completed.
13. Remove the trim material from cutter templates and place the doubler-ply cutter templates on outer-periphery-ply cutter templates; secure with pins.
14. Orient layup and lay down tape at -15° orientation until the second ply is completed.
15. Remove the doubler-ply cutter templates and the trim material.
16. Orient layup and lay down tape at +15° orientation until the first ply is completed (this surface common to core).

Due to problems with the tape machine and tape quality, mechanized layup of the skin laminates could not be accomplished consistently. Most of the skins were hand laid using the processing sequence described previously.

### END RIB FABRICATION

The following procedure was used to produce the end ribs (fig. 20).

- Prepare XLM-3 layup tool.
- Lay up 5 plies of type 181 fiberglass-epoxy (BMS 8-79) for -3 and -4 end ribs and 11 plies for -5 and -6 wedge strips.
- Vacuum bag and cure at 393 K (250° F) and 345 000 Pa (50 psi).
- Trim ribs and wedges, and autoclave bond wedges onto ribs.
- Machine rout tapes in wedge strip to blend with end rib.

### SPOILER ASSEMBLY

The use of graphite skins instead of aluminum skins was the principal difference between the program spoilers and conventional 737 spoilers. The only departure from conventional spoiler fabrication procedures was that both graphite skins were bonded to the core-fitting-spar-end rib subassembly in a single operation. This was done to avoid the envisioned problems that would result when a zero expansion graphite skin was bonded at 393 K (250° F) to one side of an aluminum core-fitting-spar-end rib subassembly.

The standard procedure of bonding one skin simultaneously with bonding the core, spar, etc. fixes the location of the end ribs. Leaving the skin off allowed the adhesively stabilized core to shrink dimensionally during vapor degreasing and bake-dry of the machined spar-core-etc. subassembly. A clamp-on rod was successfully used to maintain the proper dimension at the trailing edge (between the end ribs) during the operations. Bonding the skins simultaneously provided essentially warp-free assemblies.

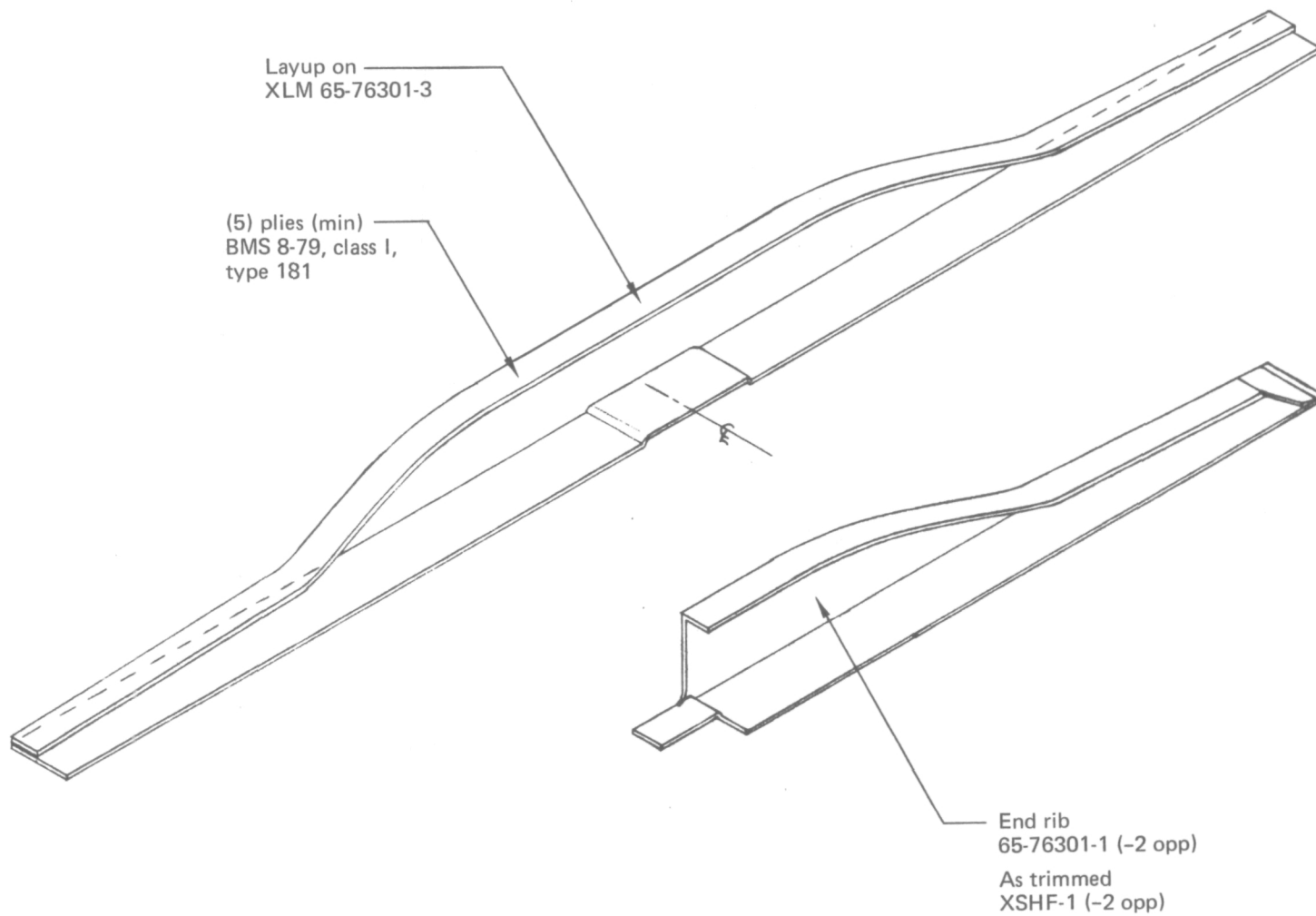


Figure 20.—End Rib Fabrication Sequence



The assembly of the spoiler was done in four stages:

- Mechanical assembly to make part number 65-76327-9004 frame
- First-stage bond to make 65-76327-4 honeycomb assembly
- Second-stage bond for assembly of honeycomb assembly, doubler, and graphite skins
- Third-stage assembly of phenolic rub strip, fillers, grounding wire and bolt, bearings, and seals

### **FRAME ASSEMBLY**

Mechanical assembly of the frame (fig. 21) was accomplished as follows.

- Clean and prepare XAJ 65-76318-3.
  1. Place locating fixtures on base plate as required for locating and holding details on XAJ.
  2. Apply MEK to the working faces of tool and wipe dry with clean cheesecloth.
- Locate and load the fitting, channels, and ribs.
- Drill fastener location, and clean and deburr holes.
- Rivet details, inspect, and protective wrap (fig. 22).

### **FIRST-STAGE BOND**

Core bond assembly sequence (fig. 23) is given below.

- Prepare detail and assemble.
  1. Locate and load 65-76327-9004 frame assembly onto tool.
  2. Locate, load, prefit, and trim honeycomb core detail.
  3. Clean honeycomb core by vapor degreasing.
- Remove BMS 5-90, type 2, grade 100, class 250 foam adhesive and EA 9628 5- and 10-mil adhesive from storage. Let warm at room temperature (not less than 4 hours).
- Assemble and prepare for cure.
  1. Clean and prepare XBAJ 65-76318-3.

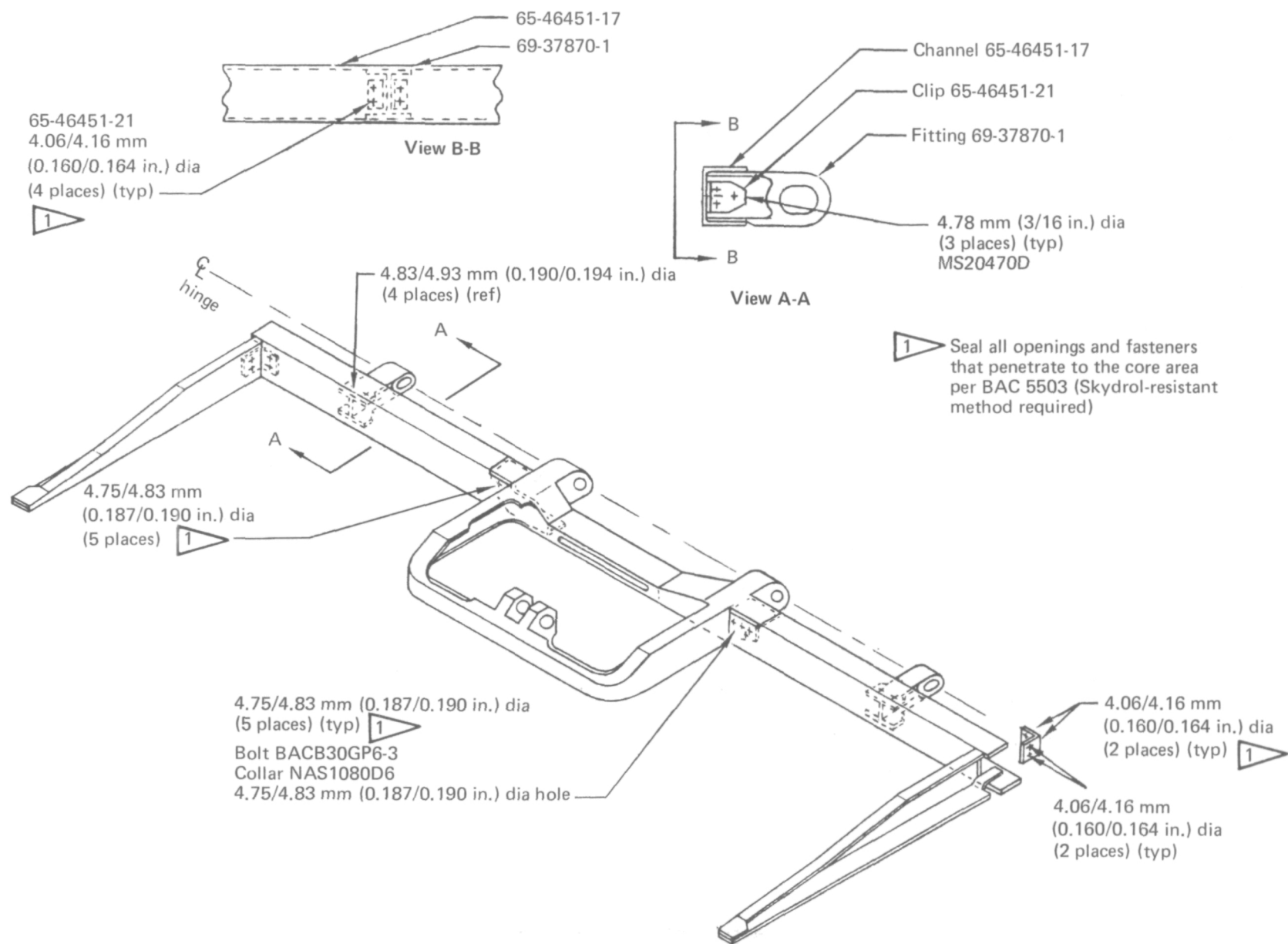
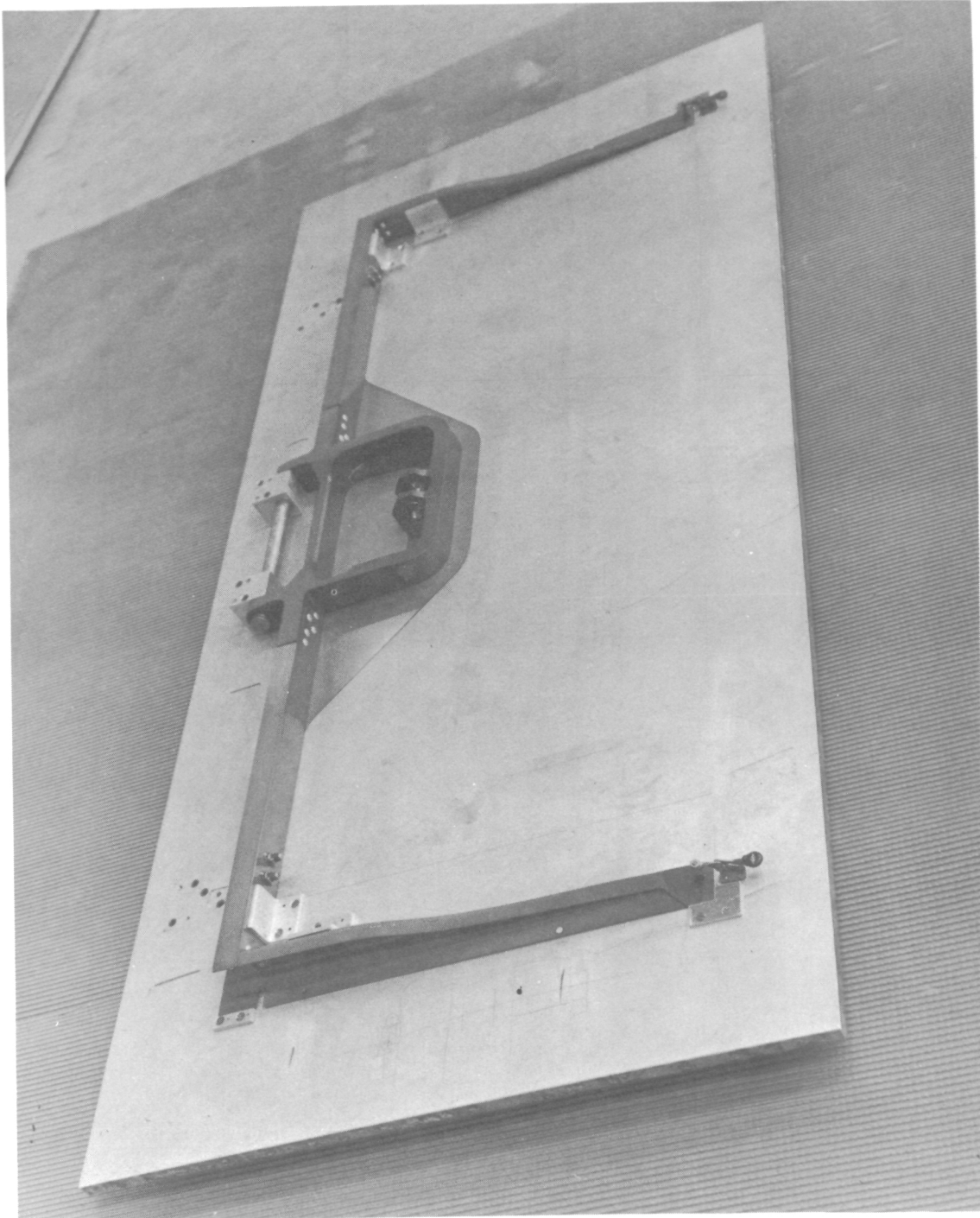


Figure 21.—Frame Assembly



*Figure 22.—Spoiler Frame Assembly Prior to Installation of Core*

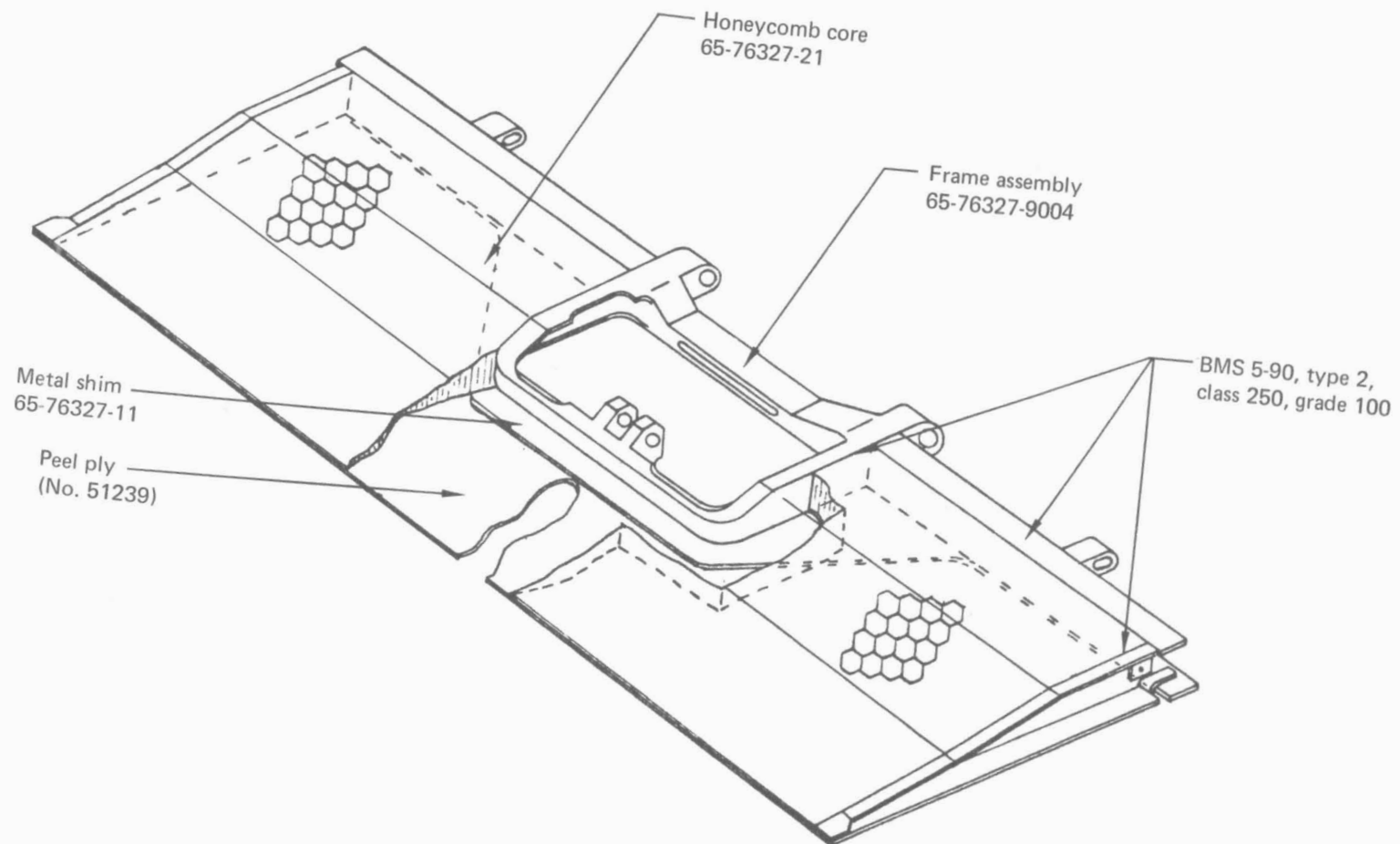


Figure 23.—Core Bond Assembly

2. Load the peel ply (No. 51239) onto full surface of tool first. Extend to outer periphery of end ribs and leading edge of channels.
  3. Remove separator sheet from one side of EA 9628 5-mil adhesive and apply to complete surface of -11 metal shim and upper surface of each rib, channel, and center hinge fitting.
  4. Apply BMS 5-90, type 2, class 250, grade 100 foam adhesive to faying surfaces (end ribs, leading-edge channels, hinge fitting) of the frame assembly and honeycomb core.
  5. Install plug in cutout of hinge fitting. Secure the end ribs and aft edge with fairing bars. Cover buildup with tool fillers and 0.81-mm (0.032-in.) caul sheet.
  6. Vacuum bag.
    - a. Apply three layers of osnaberg bleeder cloth.
    - b. Apply nylon vacuum bag.
- Machine lower surface to net configuration (fig. 24).
1. Interchange the support bar of BMF 65-17348-3 with hinge point locator bar XBMF 65-76318-3 and load assembly.
  2. Machine lower surface of core to leading-edge channels, end ribs, and hinge fitting (fig. 25).
  3. Inspect final operation (fig. 26).

To stabilize the honeycomb core of the -4 assembly prior to bonding of the graphite skins, a film of EA 9628 adhesive is laid up on the flat surface of the unmachined honeycomb core and cured. This allows the machining operation to be performed without distorting the honeycomb cells. An additional advantage is that the stabilizing adhesive becomes a normal part of the second-stage bond assembly when an additional film of EA 9628 is applied to bond the graphite skins to the -4 honeycomb assembly.

The -4 assembly was modified with the addition of the -11 metal doubler, rather than installing the -11 doubler during the second-stage bond. This change allowed a more positive positioning of the -11 doubler plus additional honeycomb core stabilization for machining of the core.

## SECOND-STAGE BOND

Honeycomb assembly, doubler, and graphite skin assembly procedure (fig. 27) was as follows.

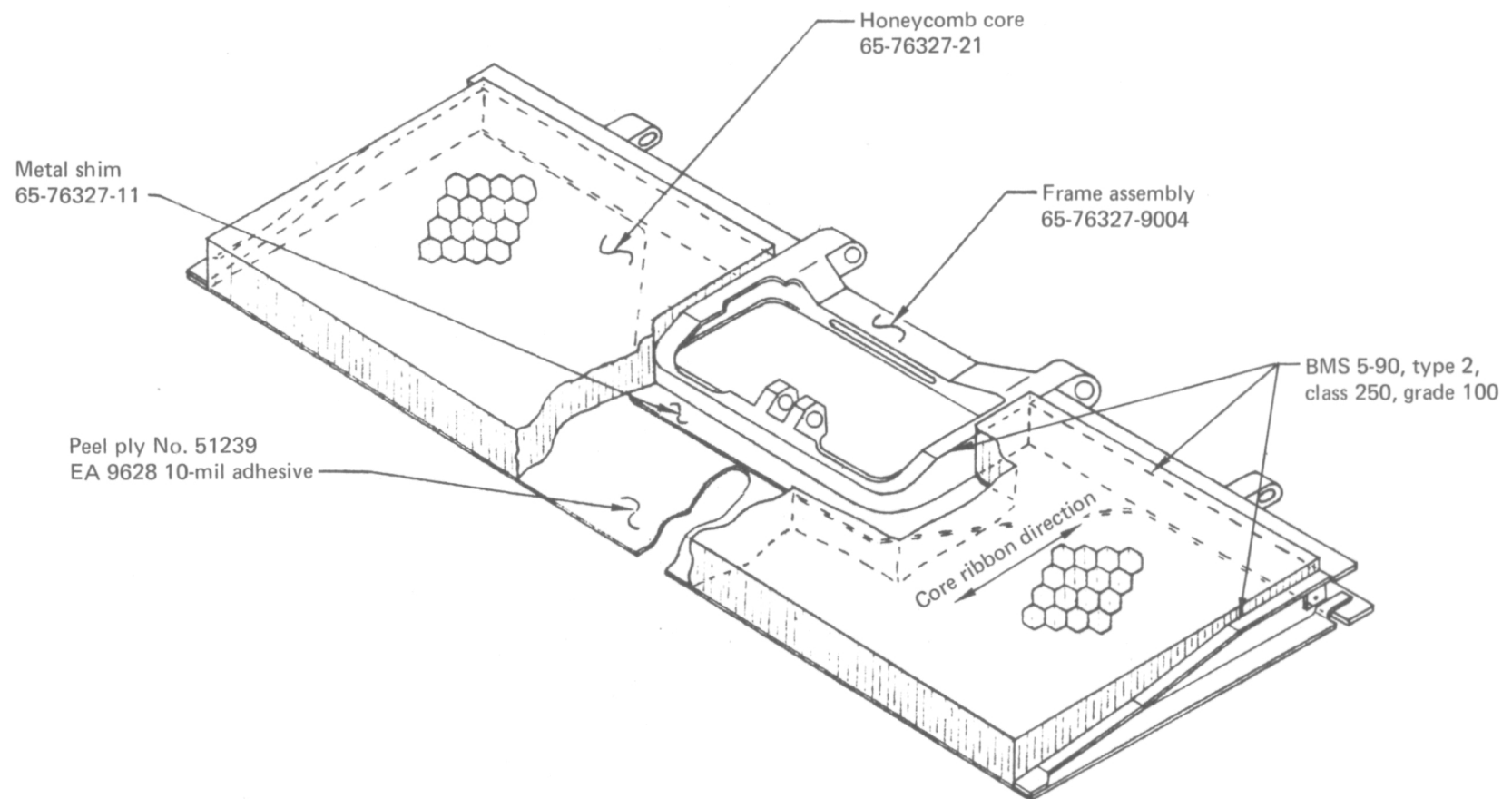
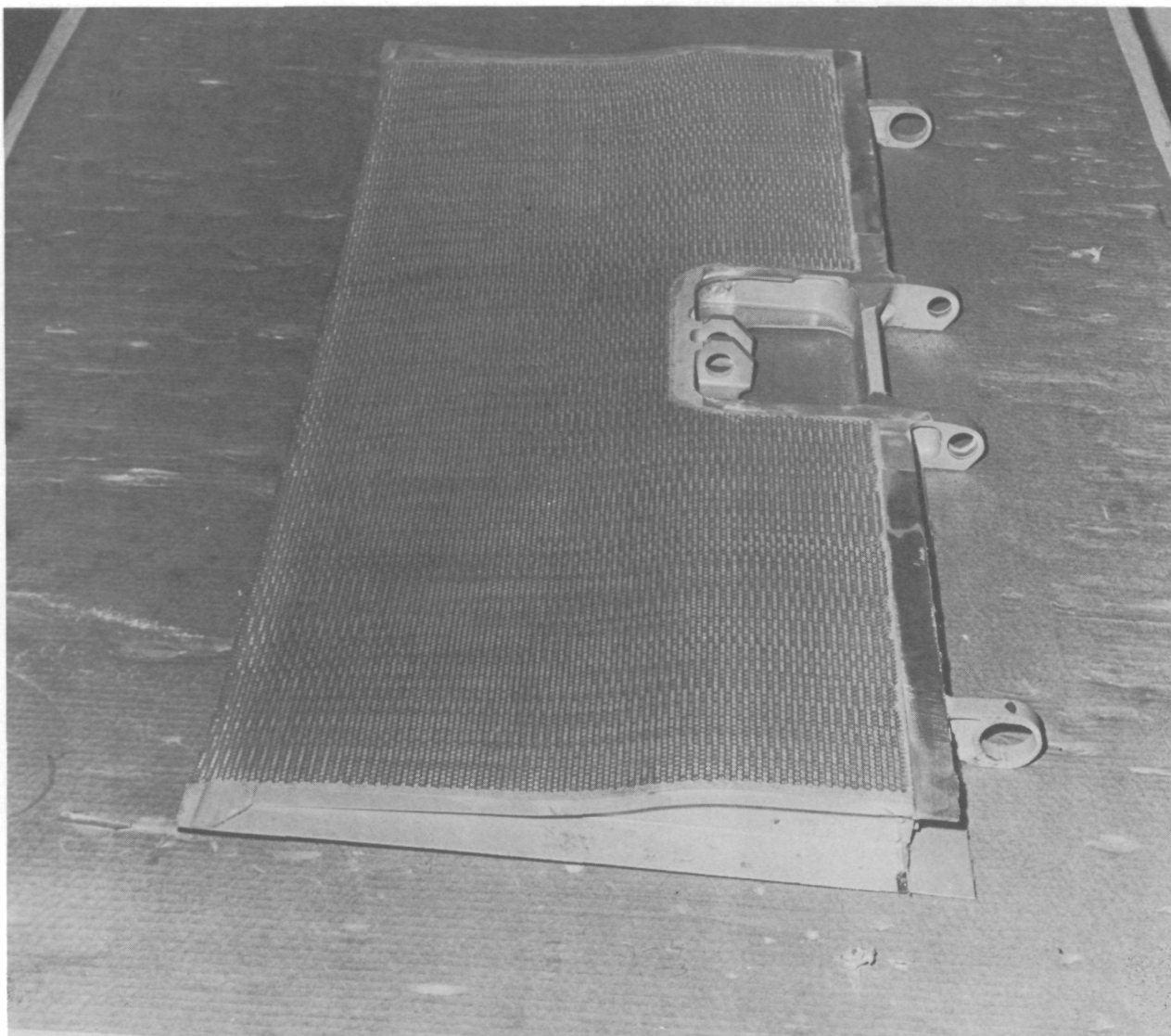


Figure 24.—Core Assembly Detail



*Figure 25.—Machining of Honeycomb With a Valve Stem Cutter*



*Figure 26.—Completed Spoiler Frame Assembly Ready for Bonding to Graphite Skins*



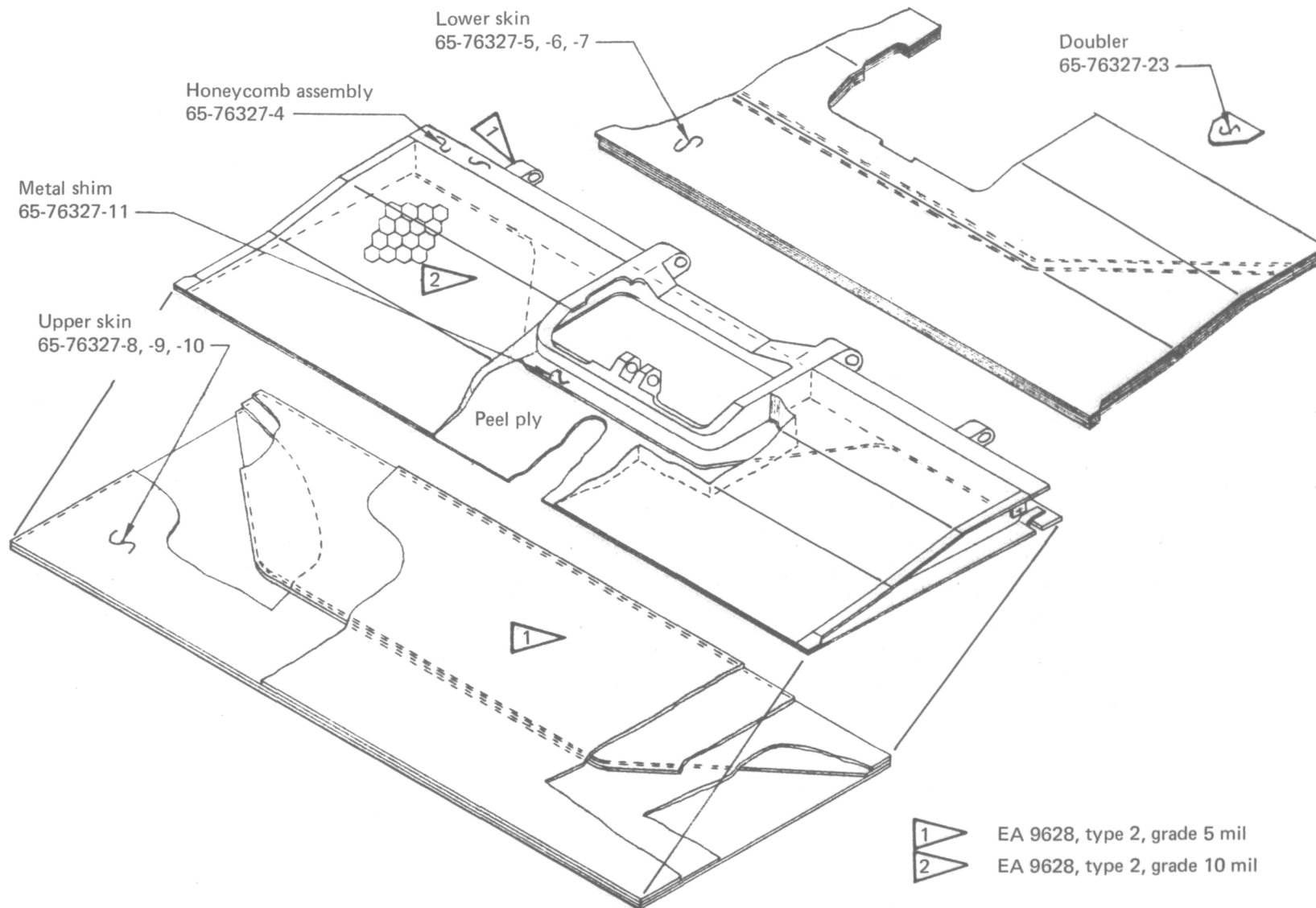


Figure 27.—Second-Stage Bond Assembly

- Clean and prepare XBAJ 65-76318-1.
  1. Apply MEK to the working face of the tool and wipe dry with clean cheesecloth.
  2. Apply separator film to base.
  3. Apply locating fixtures (fairing bars) on base plate for locating and holding details.
- Prepare detail and assemble.
  1. Remove EA 9628 grade 5- and 10-mil film adhesive from storage. Let warm at room temperature and apply to areas shown in figure 27.
  2. Cut the adhesive tape net size using the details as a pattern, but splice adhesive with no gap or overlap to a maximum of 13 mm (0.5 in.).
  3. Remove separator sheet from one side of tape and apply EA 9628 adhesive to entire peel ply surface of lower (contoured) and upper (flat) skin, as well as to -4 honeycomb assembly.
    - a. Locate and load the upper skin onto tool base with adhesive surface up. Index to 3.2 mm (0.125 in.) diameter tool holes and pin in place.
    - b. With care, locate and stack load the -4 assembly onto adhesive-applied skin.
    - c. Secure end ribs and skin with 3.2 mm (0.125 in.) diameter tool pins. Install filler bars at flanges of end ribs to prevent crushing and tie down with fairing bars.
    - d. Cut and remove adhesive in area of cutout in hinge fitting.
    - e. Firmly press tape against faying surface and remove remaining separator sheet from adhesive.
    - f. With care, locate and stack load the lower skin onto -4 honeycomb assembly.
    - g. Ensure alignments at edges common to end ribs, leading-edge channels, and center hinge fitting cutout. Tie down skin as required with tape to hold alignment and prevent shifting.
    - h. Ensure flat trailing edge.
  4. Remove separator sheet from one side of tape and apply 5-mil EA 9628 adhesive to -23 doublers in area common to lower skin.

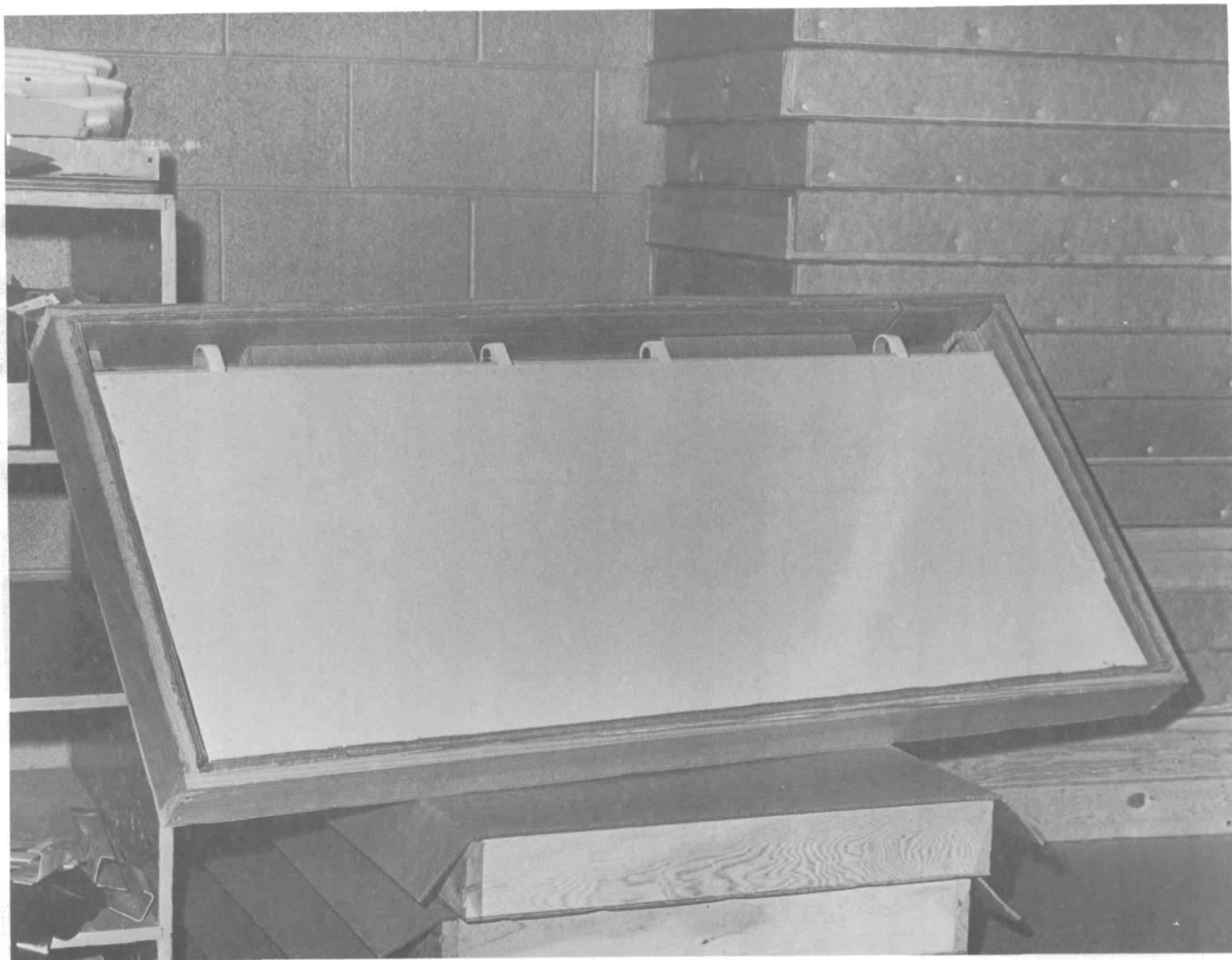
- a. Firmly press tape against faying surface and remove remaining separator sheet from adhesive.
  - b. Locate and load the -23 doublers onto lower skin. Tie down doublers as required with tape to hold alignment and prevent shifting.
- 5. Check to ensure that only light pressure (6900 to 13 800 Pa (1 to 2 psi) as calculated on the bond area) is required to give uniform contact over all surfaces to be bonded.
- 6. Install filler plug in cutout area of hinge fitting. Ensure end ribs are secured and filler bars are tightly fitted at flanges to prevent crushing.
- Prepare for cure (handle assembly and tool with care to prevent shifting).
  - 1. Apply FEP release film.
  - 2. Check to ensure flow of adhesive flash or gas is not restricted.
  - 3. Attach thermocouple wires.
  - 4. Apply bleeder cloth.
  - 5. Apply nylon bagging film.
  - 6. Draw vacuum, leak check, make necessary repairs, and release vacuum as soon as it is determined that the diaphragm is adequately sealed.
- Cure at 379 to 393 K (225° to 250° F); use 241 300 Pa (35 psi) for 90 minutes. Do not exceed 393 K (250° F).
- Debag.
- Remove bonding flash from periphery and notch in cutout common to center hinge fitting.
- Ultrasonic through-transmission inspect 100%.

### **THIRD-STAGE MECHANICAL ASSEMBLY**

Assembly sequence for fillers, phenolic rub strip, bearings, and seals is given below.

- Bond fillers and phenolic strip to bond assembly.
  - 1. Clean bond faying surface with MEK.
  - 2. Apply thin coat of adhesive to each of the faying surfaces.

3. Apply sufficient pressure to ensure complete contact.
  4. Cure at room temperature (297 to 300 K (75° to 80° F)).
- Locate and clamp drill jig (XDJ) onto upper (flat) surface of assembly and drill all holes full size.
  - Remove XDJ from assembly; deburr and countersink holes.
  - Inspect final operation.
  - Install fasteners.
  - Apply finish.
    1. Apply static conditioner (pinhole filler) plus surfacer to all laminate surfaces.
    2. Apply deSoto conductive coating base to all laminate surfaces. Ensure conductive coating is applied to the countersink surfaces.
      - a. Cure.
      - b. Measure resistance of the conductive coating.
    3. Apply Boeing color 707 gray gloss enamel to composite and metallic surfaces.
- Install teflon bearings and bushings to center hinge fitting and lock bearings in place with -1100 retainer ring.
  - Locate seals and install to assembly.
  - Weigh assembly, inspect, and place in shipping container (fig. 28).



*Figure 28.—Completed Spoiler in Shipping Container*

## QUALITY CONTROL

The major quality control effort was expended in the following areas.

- Nondestructive testing

1. Numerous composite test specimens were evaluated nondestructively to aid in technique optimization. The technique and instruments used included water-column-coupled ultrasonic through-transmission, Sondicator, Fokker bond tester, and harmonic bond tester.
2. Several reference standards were developed and evaluated to standardize instruments and to provide a common base for each inspection technique.
3. The Boeing-developed C-scan multicolor recorder, which provides complete NDT information in a single scan, allows the recording of 10 discrete sound attenuation levels through the entire range of ultrasonic signals. Each attenuation level is represented by a different color. Progress was made toward improving the speed of the C-scan recording because it was relatively slow when compared to the conventional one-level, black and white recording.
4. An improved multilevel standard was developed for greater accuracy in cross-panel comparison. This standard consists of a 10-step machined polyurethane plastic block that exactly attenuated the ultrasonic signal at the middle of each decibel level range.
5. Inspection personnel were trained for production use of the NDT facility.
6. A draft of the NDT procedure was prepared and was made available to Manufacturing prior to first-article inspection.
7. Through-transmission ultrasonic NDT methods are not capable of distinguishing between voids and disbonds in a localized area of a highly dampening material such as thick adhesive. Other NDT methods such as low-voltage X-ray and Sondicator inspection were used for identification of thickened adhesives in local areas.

- Material control

Incoming material was inspected and examined per Engineering requirements and reference 3.

- Process and facility control

Process control was maintained during fabrication by conducting process surveillance checks to ensure that material, equipment, personnel, and processing steps were in compliance with the requirements of Boeing documents and the

contract. In conformity to established Boeing standards, all measuring instruments used in fabrication and inspection of spoilers were in full certification.

- **Verifilm evaluation**

As an additional assurance of uniform pressure application throughout the bonding tool, several verifilm profiles were obtained on early production units. Verifilm is a specific term for the adhesive flow pattern obtained when the normal tape adhesive has been sandwiched between pieces of separator film and the spoiler is "bonded" per specification. The cured film is withdrawn from the bonded assembly for a critical examination of each bondline.

The verifilm patterns of the first two panels indicated porosity and voids under the center hinge fitting to the -11 doubler bondline. These defects were not seen after the doubler was reworked to include vent holes. The verifilm also revealed low-pressure patterns on the lower skin-to-honeycomb bondline believed to be due to bent-over cell wall edges or excessively machined core. These same patterns were seen as high-attenuation areas on the ultrasonic C-scan.

## **PRODUCTION SPOILER INSPECTION**

All composite production spoilers were nondestructively inspected using ultrasonic through-transmission with multilevel color C-scan recordings. Some of these recordings have shown areas of detectable ultrasonic signal attenuation. Details of these indications are shown in table 7, along with disposition report numbers contained in Engineering records. Most of the indications have occurred in the transition areas or under -11 shim. Some indications were seen under the -23 doublers and in a few cases adjacent to the -8 center hinge fitting. Additional adhesive was positioned around the -11 shim periphery, and the ultrasonic attenuation noted in that area was attributed to the thicker adhesive bondline.

## **EVALUATION OF NDT RESULTS**

Ultrasonic through-transmission with multicolor C-scan recording was done by the production Quality Control personnel. All recordings were reviewed and evaluated by Quality Control Research and Development personnel, and disposition was made as needed. In some instances, parts were rescanned and/or examined by low-voltage X-ray or Sondicator. For example:

- The original scans of spoilers S/N 100 and S/N 103 lacked sufficient definition. The rescan of S/N 100 showed no discrepancies with the original NDT and S/N 100 was thus accepted. The rescan of S/N 103 duplicated 54- to 60-dB attenuation on the right hinge arm of the center hinge fitting that was noted on the original scan. Reexamination of the physical features of the hinge fitting disclosed that the attenuations were occurring over the 24.1 mm (0.95 in.) diameter machining access hole in the hinge fitting. While the open hole should theoretically show complete attenuation, apparently a portion of the signal was seeking a "detour" path around the periphery of the hole, yielding local indications greater than 0 dB. No such indications were noted adjacent to the access hole, and the spoiler was accepted.

Table 7.—NDT Test Data—Ultrasonic Inspection of Graphite-Epoxy Spoilers<sup>a</sup>

| Panel        |          | Serial number | Signal attenuation <sup>b</sup>   | Satisfactory? | Disposition report number           |
|--------------|----------|---------------|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Planning no. | Part no. |               |   |               |                                     |
| 65-76327-1   | TE1      | 0001          | 43-48 dB under -23 doublers   | No            |                                     |
|              | TE2      | 0002          | (c)   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE3      | 0003          | 43-54 dB transition area (L)  | Yes           | S/R 458141                          |
|              | TE4      | 0004          | 43-54 dB -11 shim area (L and R)  | Yes           | S/R 930081                          |
|              | TE5      | 0005          | 43-54 dB transition area; under -11 shim                                | Yes           | S/R 458140                          |
|              | TE6      | 0006          | 43-54 dB transition area; under -11 shim                                | Yes           | S/R 458139                          |
|              | TE7      | 0007          | 43-48 dB transition area (L); under -8 CHF                              | Yes           | S/R 458138                          |
|              | TE8      | 0008          | 43-48 dB transition area (L)  | Yes           | S/R 458137                          |
|              | TE9      | 0009          | 43-48 dB -11 shim (center and L)  | Yes           | S/R 930083                          |
|              | TE10     | 0010          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE11     | 0011          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE12     | 0012          | 43-48 dB over entire panel  | Yes           | S/R 930087                          |
|              | TE13     | 0013          | 43-54 dB transition area (L); under -11 shim                            | Yes           | S/R 930089                          |
|              | TE14     | 0014          | 43-54 dB -11 shim; (L corner) inside surface -11 shim                   | Yes           | S/R 930082                          |
|              | TE15     | 0015          | 43-54 dB transition area (L); under -11 shim                            | Yes           | S/R 930085                          |
|              | TE16     | 0016          | 43-60 dB periphery -8 CHF; -11 shim                                     | Yes           | S/R 458136                          |
|              | TE17     | 0017          | 43-48 dB under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 930084                          |
|              | TE18     | 0018          | 37-42 dB under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 458135                          |
|              | TE19     | 0019          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE20     | 0020          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE21     | 0021          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE22     | 0022          | 43-48 dB -11 shim (R)   | Yes           | S/R 458134                          |
|              | TE23     | 0023          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim                      | Yes           | S/R 458133                          |
|              | TE24     | 0024          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE25     | 0025          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE26     | 0026          | 43-48 dB under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 458132                          |
|              | TE27     | 0027          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim                      | Yes           | S/R 458131                          |
|              | TE28     | 0028          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); LE area (L); under -11 shim         | Yes           | S/R 458130                          |
|              | TE29     | 0029          | 43-48 dB transition area (L); under -11 shim                            | Yes           | S/R 458129                          |
|              | TE30     | 0030          | 43-54 dB transition area (R); center of honeycomb; under -11 shim       |               | S/R 458128                          |
|              | TE31     | 0031          |   | Yes           |                                     |
|              | TE32     | 0032          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim; L side -8 CHF       | Yes           | S/R 458127                          |
|              | TE33     | 0033          | 43-54 dB transition area; under -11 shim and upper R side               | Yes           | S/R 640070                          |
|              | TE34     | 0034          | 43-60 dB center honeycomb to trailing edge in distinct, irregular areas | No            | R/T 495030<br>Retested and rejected |
|              | TE35     | 0035          | 43-54 dB transition area (L); under -11 shim                            | Yes           | S/R 640069                          |
|              | TE36     | 0036          | 43-54 dB transition area (L); under -11 shim; stripe 5 in. R of CHF     | Yes           | S/R 640068                          |
|              | TE37     | 0037          | 43-60 dB upper R corner; two indications near trailing edge             | No            | R/T 465503<br>Rejected and repaired |
|              | TE38     | 0038          | Repaired part: 43-60 dB upper right corner                              | Yes           | S/R 640071                          |
|              | TE1R     | 0001R         |   | Yes           |                                     |
| 65-76327-1   | TE34R    | 0034R         |   | Yes           |                                     |
| 65-76327-2   | TE1      | 0041          | (c)   | Yes           |                                     |
| 65-76327-2   | TE2      | 0042          | 43-54 dB inside -8 CHF  | Yes           | S/R 930080                          |
| 65-76327-2   | TE3      | 0043          | 43-54 dB L side of panel  | Yes           | S/R 930086                          |



Table 7.—Continued

| Panel        |          | Serial number | Signal attenuation   | Satisfactory? | Disposition report number |
|--------------|----------|---------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| Planning no. | Part no. |               |  |               |                           |
| 65-76327-2   | TE4      | 0044          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE5      | 0045          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE6      | 0046          | 43-54 dB transition area (R)   | Yes           | S/R 930090                |
|              | TE7      | 0047          | 43-54 dB under -23 doublers, -11 shim; and transition area (L)   | Yes           | S/R 458126                |
|              | TE8      | 0048          | 43-60 dB -8 CHF (L); under -11 shim and -23 doublers   | Yes           | S/R 930092                |
|              | TE9      | 0049          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE10     | 0050          | 43-60 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers                                      | Yes           | S/R 930091                |
|              | TE11     | 0051          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE12     | 0052          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507070                |
|              | TE13     | 0053          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE14     | 0054          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE15     | 0055          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE16     | 0056          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE17     | 0057          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers                                      | Yes           | S/R 507069                |
|              | TE18     | 0058          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507068                |
|              | TE19     | 0059          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE20     | 0060          |  | Yes           |                           |
|              | TE21     | 0061          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507067                |
|              | TE22     | 0062          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507066                |
|              | TE23     | 0063          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507065                |
|              | TE24     | 0064          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507064                |
|              | TE25     | 0065          | 43-48 dB transition area; under -11 shim and upper R   | Yes           | S/R 507054                |
|              | TE26     | 0066          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers                                      | Yes           | S/R 457453                |
|              | TE27     | 0067          | 43-54 dB transition area; under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507062                |
|              | TE28     | 0068          | 43-54 dB transition area (L, center, R); under -11 shim  | Yes           | S/R 507063                |
|              | TE29     | 0069          | 43-60 dB, most of upper (LE) side of panel   | Yes           | S/R 457454                |
|              | TE30     | 0070          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 457455                |
|              | TE31     | 0071          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim   | Yes           | S/R 507061                |
|              | TE32     | 0072          | 43-54 dB scattered over panel  | Yes           | S/R 457451                |
|              | TE33     | 0073          | 43-54 dB transition areas (L and R); under -23 doublers; stripe 6 in. L of -8 CHF; stripe 5 in. R of CHF | Yes(d)        | S/R 457450                |
|              | TE34     | 0074          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers                                      | Yes           | S/R 457449                |
|              | TE35     | 0075          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers; stripe 5 in. R of CHF               | Yes           | S/R 457448                |
|              | TE36     | 0076          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim and -23 doublers; stripe 5 in. R of CHF               | Yes           | S/R 457447                |
|              | TE37     | 0077          | 43-48 dB transition area; under -11 shim and -23 doublers  | Yes(d)        | S/R 457446                |
|              | TE38     | 0078          | 43-54 dB transition area (R) and under -11 shim; stripe 6 in. R of CHF                                   | Yes           | S/R 457452                |

Table 7.—Concluded

| Panel        |          | Serial number | Signal attenuation <sup>b</sup>   | Satisfactory?    | Disposition report number |
|--------------|----------|---------------|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Planning no. | Part no. |               |   |                  |                           |
| 65-76327-3   | TE1      | 0081          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE2      | 0082          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE3      | 0083          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE4      | 0084          | 43-60 dB over -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 930088                |
|              | TE5      | 0085          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE6      | 0086          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE7      | 0087          |   | Yes              |                           |
|              | TE8      | 0088          | 43-48 dB transition area (L, center, R); under -11 shim   | Yes              | S/R 507059                |
|              | TE9      | 0089          | 43-45 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 507055                |
|              | TE10     | 0090          | 43-48 dB transition area; under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 507058                |
|              | TE11     | 0091          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -8 CHF and -11 shim   | Yes              | S/R 507057                |
|              | TE12     | 0092          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 507056                |
|              | TE13     | 0093          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim; stripe 7 in. R of CHF  | Yes              | S/R 640066                |
|              | TE14     | 0094          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim and -23 doublers  | Yes              | S/R 640065                |
|              | TE15     | 0095          | 43-60 dB entire panel between LE and transition area; 43-48 dB over remainder of panel                            | Yes <sup>c</sup> | S/R 640064                |
|              | TE16     | 0096          | 43-54 dB stripe 6 in. R of CHF  | Yes              | S/R 640063                |
|              | TE17     | 0097          | 43-54 dB upper LE panel area from 5 in. R of -8 CHF to L end rib  | Yes              | S/R 640062                |
|              | TE18     | 0098          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim   | Yes              | S/R 640061                |
|              | TE19     | 0099          | 43-54 dB transition area (L) and under -23 doublers and -11 shim; stripe 4 in. L of CHF                           | Yes              | S/R 640060                |
|              | TE20     | 0100          | 43-54 dB entire spoiler area  | Yes <sup>c</sup> | S/R 640059                |
|              | TE21     | 0101          | 43-54 dB entire upper LE panel area   | Yes              | S/R 640058                |
|              | TE22     | 0102          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R), stripes 5 in. L and R of CHF  | Yes              | S/R 640057                |
|              | TE23     | 0103          | 43-48 dB over entire spoiler area   | Yes <sup>c</sup> | S/R 640056                |
|              | TE24     | 0104          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim   | Yes              | S/R 640055                |
|              | TE25     | 0105          | No initial NDT performed. Scan after service damage, 1-in.-dia void on upper surface above CHF                    | Yes <sup>d</sup> | R/T 494681                |
|              | TE26     | 0106          | 43-54 dB stripe 4 in. of -8 CHF   | Yes              | S/R 640077                |
|              | TE27     | 0107          | 43-60 dB under -11 shim; spotty upper panel area  | Yes              | S/R 640078                |
|              | TE28     | 0108          | 49-54 dB under -11 shim; upper panel area   | Yes              | S/R 640079                |
|              | TE29     | 0109          | 43-54 dB transition area (R); under -23 doublers; -11 shim periphery; stripe 4 in. L of -8 CHF                    | Yes              | S/R 457467                |
|              | TE30     | 0110          | 43-54 dB transition area (L, center, R); under -11 shim   | Yes              | S/R 457466                |
|              | TE31     | 0111          | 43-54 dB all transition area; periphery -11 shim; stripe 5 in. R of -8 CHF  | Yes              | S/R 457463                |
|              | TE32     | 0112          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim and stripe 4 in. L of CHF   | Yes              | S/R 457462                |
|              | TE33     | 0113          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim and stripe 4 in. L of CHF; 49-54 dB in 1/2-in. dia 8 in. L of CHF and 9 in. forward of TE | Yes              | S/R 457461                |
|              | TE34     | 0114          | 43-48 dB periphery and R side -11 shim; R -23 doubler   | Yes              | S/R 457460                |
|              | TE35     | 0115          | 43-54 dB under -11 shim and 4 in. L of CHF  | Yes              | S/R 457459                |
|              | TE36     | 0116          | 43-48 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 457458                |
|              | TE37     | 0117          | 43-54 dB transition area (all); under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 457457                |
|              | TE38     | 0118          | 43-54 dB transition area (L and R); under -11 shim  | Yes              | S/R 457456                |

<sup>a</sup>1-MHz water-column-coupled through-transmission ultrasonic signal<sup>b</sup>Abbreviations used: L (left), R (right), CHF (center hinge fitting), LE (leading edge), and TE (trailing edge)<sup>c</sup>Rescan cleared discrepant areas<sup>d</sup>Repaired-area only

- Unit S/N 0093, with high attenuation in the leading-edge region, was radiographically inspected using a 50-kV source. A high level of adhesive bondline porosity was displayed over the entire panel area. The X-ray film image also displayed some core crushing and distortion, which could account for the high attenuation readings.
- The investigation of scrapped spoiler S/N 0034 was not made because the unit was salvaged for detail parts before the structural bondline information could be obtained. The rebuilt spoiler S/N 0034R contained no discrepant areas.

### STATIC TEST SPOILER EVALUATION

Three static test spoilers—S/N 0002, S/N 0041, and S/N 0081—were rescanned after static testing. The highly attenuated areas were generally confined to the fracture areas, with little or no propagation into adjacent structure. Radiographic inspection of these areas also confirmed negligible crack propagation. It was interesting to note the small edge crush on the honeycomb core in the transition areas, which also might account for sonic attenuation indications. The first two static test spoilers (S/N 0002 and 0041) were run using a black and white recording since the static test articles would not require future reference to color recordings. However, color recordings were made on unit S/N 0081.

Unit S/N 0002 was destructively evaluated by Quality Control personnel following the static test. Attempts to mechanically remove the upper and lower skins from the honeycomb core resulted in complete destruction of the core. The skin laminates invariably would delaminate before failure of either the honeycomb-to-laminate bondline or the laminate-to-edge-member bondline. Adhesive bonding was termed excellent.

To interpret the significance of the relationship between ultrasonic transmission through the panel to that through actual structure, S/N 0081 was evaluated by radiography and destructively tested by chemical milling the core away from the skins. The results of this investigation strengthened the belief in ultrasonic recording interpretations.

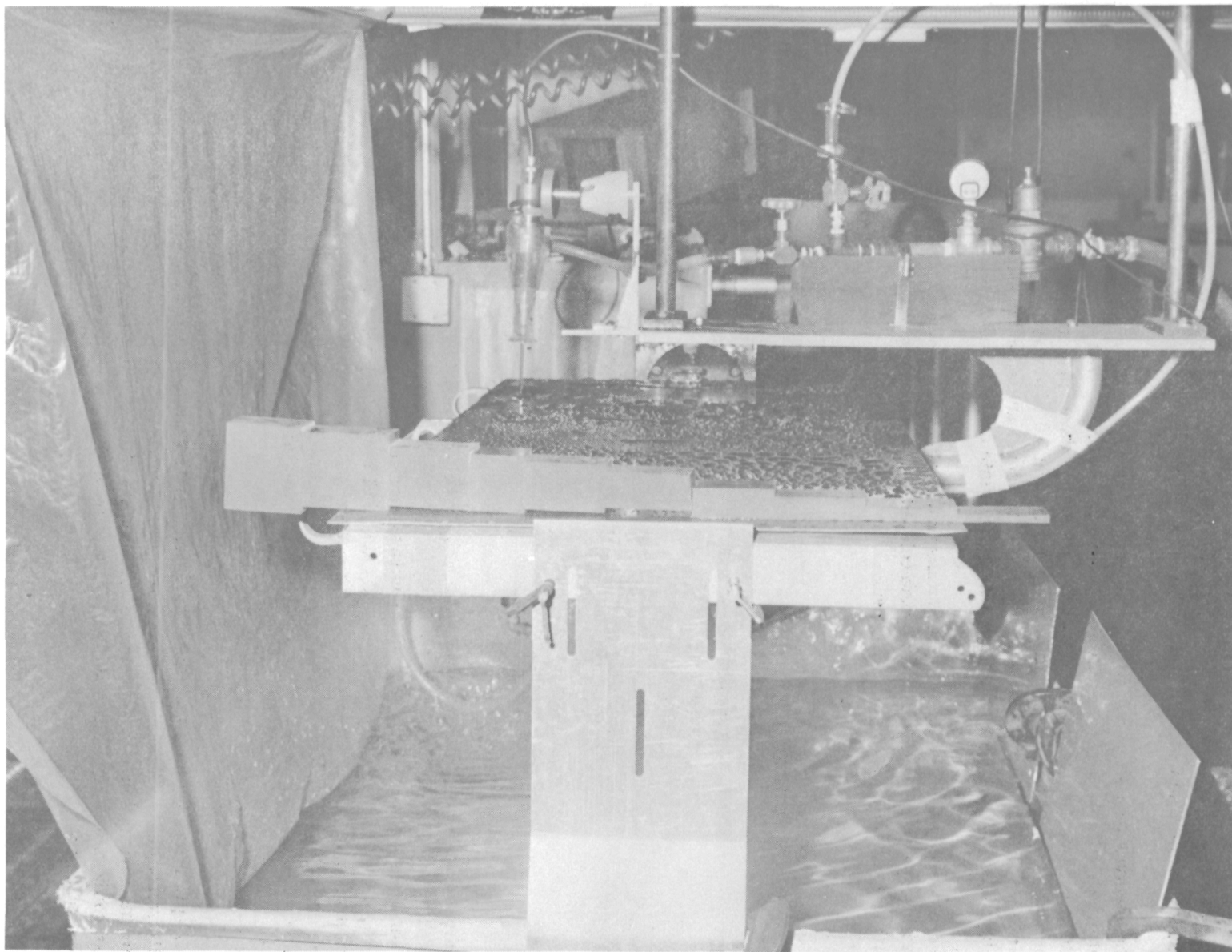
### NDT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

All spoilers produced under this contract were inspected over their entirety using water-column-coupled through-transmission equipment augmented with 0- to 60-dB, 10-level multicolor recording capability for approximately 1:1 C-scan presentation (fig. 29).

### EQUIPMENT

The source was a Sperry-Rand model 724 immerscope, a high-voltage pulse generator that periodically excites a transmitting transducer to emit an acoustic signal (1 MHz) of fixed amplitude and duration.

The sound coupling medium was city tap water columns of fixed pressure and flow. One water column proceeded from the source transducer housing to the test hardware, the



*Figure 29.—General Arrangement—Ultrasonic Inspection Setup*

other from the receiver transducer housing to the opposite side of the test hardware (fig. 30). Pressure and flow were such as to eliminate all entrapped gases within the water column. The water columns were aligned prior to test for maximum signal level.

The receiver was electronically arranged for conversion of the transmitted sonic pulse into the required electrical signal. The output of the receiver transducer was amplified and processed in a peak detector. The dc signal developed in the peak detector was connected through logic circuitry for definition of 10 attenuation levels, each 6 dB in width (0- to 60-dB total range). Each activated level actuated an indicator lamp and a relay/solenoid circuit for depressing the appropriate colored pen.

The conditioned dc signal was either displayed on a cathode-ray tube of a dual-trace oscilloscope or was used to activate the colored pen circuits (fig. 31). The color code used for the attenuation levels is as follows.

| <u>Attenuation level, dB</u> | <u>Colored pen activated</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0-6                          | Pink                         |
| 7-12                         | Turquoise                    |
| 13-18                        | Gold                         |
| 19-24                        | Blue                         |
| 25-30                        | Green                        |
| 31-36                        | Purple                       |
| 37-42                        | Orange                       |
| 43-48                        | Red                          |
| 49-54                        | Brown                        |
| 55-60                        | Black                        |

Indications above 43 dB are considered to be highly attenuated.

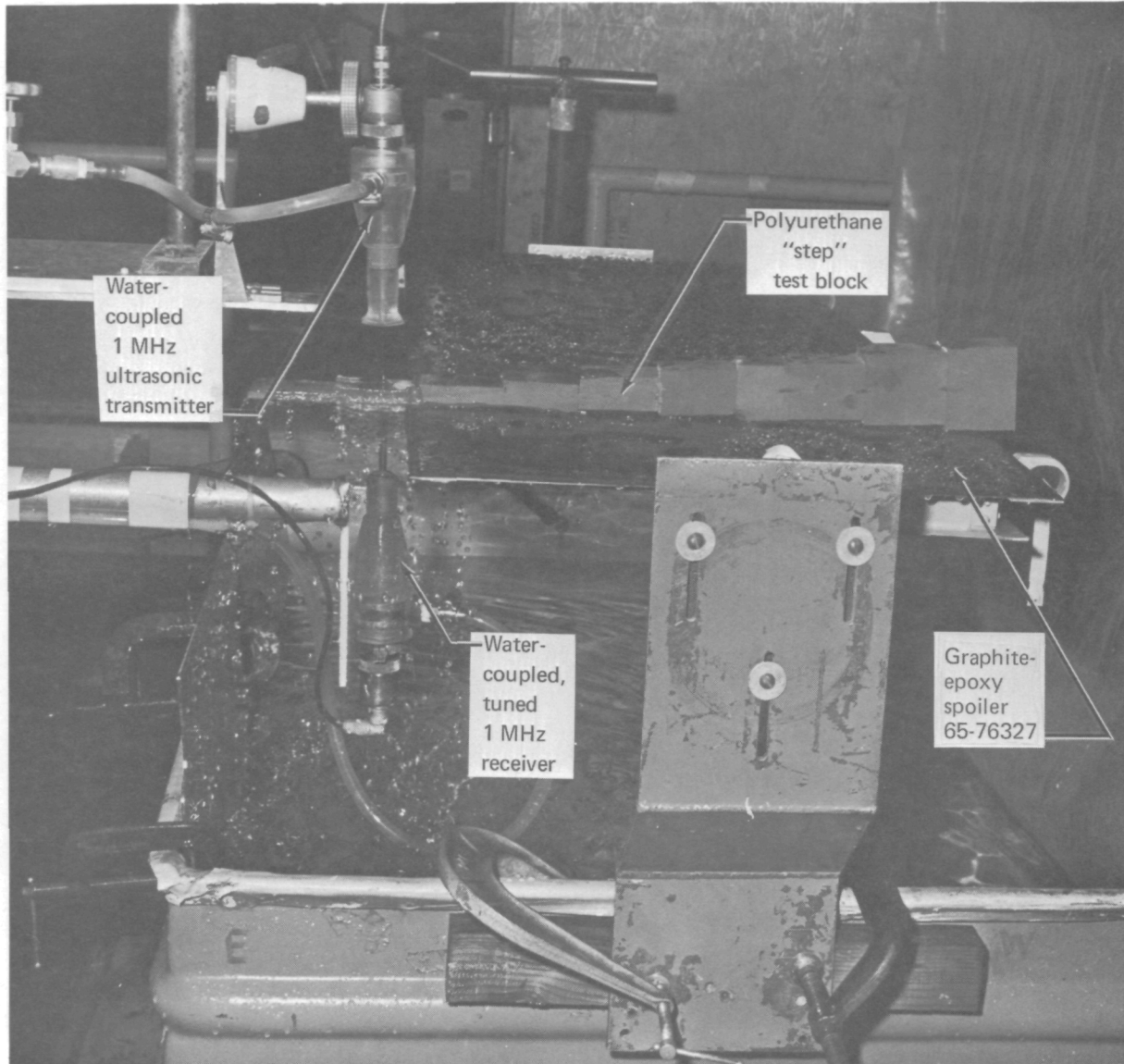
A suitable scanning table or gantry with control equipment was used to effect 1.02 to 2.04 mm (0.040 to 0.080 in.) steps, each 711 mm (28.0 in.) long, for moving the water-coupled ultrasonic transmitter/receiver yoke across the entire surface of the spoiler unit. The selsyn controller shown in figure 31 correlated movement of the pen carriage to movement of the yoke assembly across the panel.

## STANDARDS

A 30-ply micarta block used during the start of the program was replaced by a 10-step polyurethane block (figs. 29 and 30) to standardize the equipment. Each step or thickness variation was constructed to attenuate at midrange of each decibel interval. A Tektronix model 170 calibrated signal attenuator (fig. 32) was used in conjunction with the test block.

## PROCEDURE

1. Turn on immerscope, log amplifier quantizer, and oscilloscope at least 2 hours prior to test.



*Figure 30.—Ultrasonic Signal Transmitter and Receiver Arrangement*



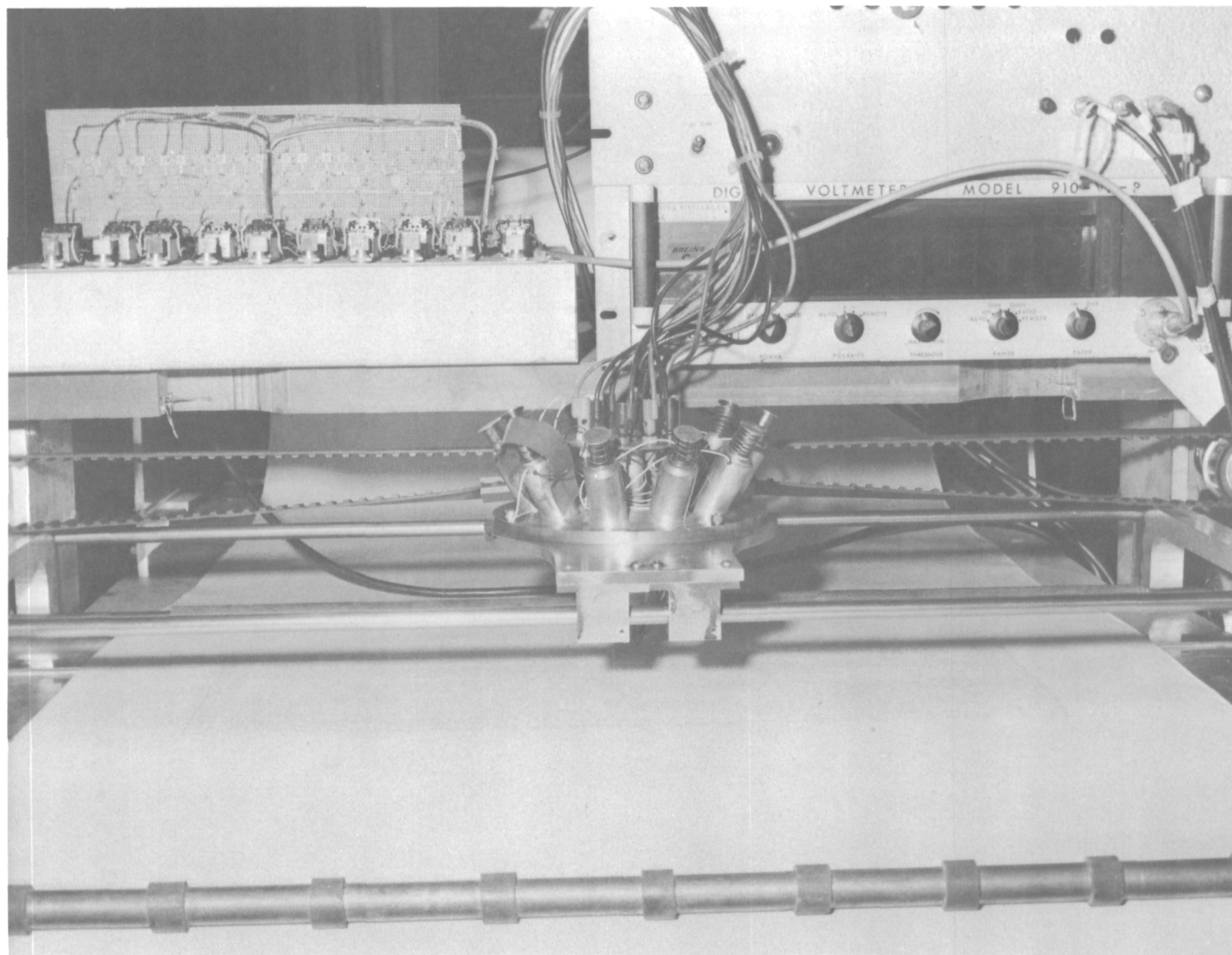


Figure 31.—10-Level Quantizer and 10-Colored-Pen Array

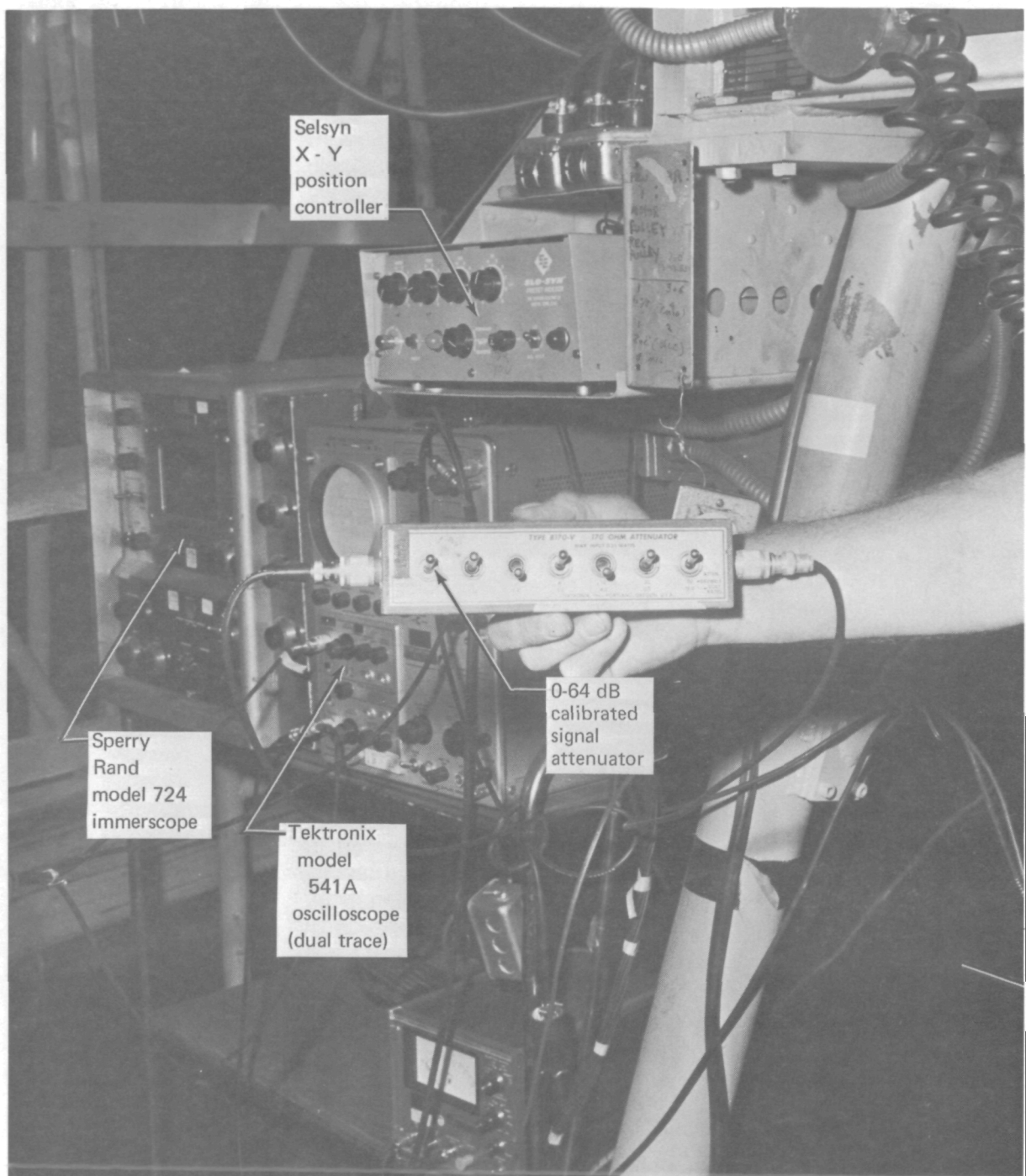


Figure 32.—Calibrated Signal Attenuator and Ultrasonic Equipment Controls



2. Preset the water pressure to 137 900 to 172 400 Pa (20 to 25 psi). Align the water jets so that the splash pattern is perpendicular to the water flow and approximately midway between the transducers. Check for air bubbles in the line and eliminate if present. The electrical signal on the DVM should be a steady 13.4 Vdc once peak voltage is obtained. Note: The slightest misalignment of the transducers will strongly reduce the signal received.
3. Preset the scanner stops to cover 711 mm (28 in.) of travel across the width of the test hardware. Set selsyn pen drive for 1.02-mm (0.04-in.) or 2.04-mm (0.08-in.) steps as required for 1:1 data display of the C-scan.
4. Place the model 170 attenuator in series with the output from the receiver transducer to the log-amp detector.
5. Place the 10-step polyurethane test block in the water path, observing the signal level actuated for each step of the block (i.e., colored lights and pen solenoid actuation). If the actuated signal level varies from standard (i.e., the seventh block actuates a red pen instead of an orange one), adjust the attenuator until the proper signal level is attained. Rescan the other sections of the test block to verify that proper attenuation has been maintained. Reverify the unimpeded signal at 13.4 Vdc and ensure constant signal level when the scanner is put into motion.
6. Turn on chart drive control.
7. Place the test block in its holder and scan across each section three or four times. The colored pen presentation should be uniform for each color and should change to the next highest attenuation level cleanly. Remove the test block. Retain this display on the same chart as the spoiler scan.
8. Place the graphite spoiler in the support clamp with the upper skin upward and at right angles to the source transducer. Move the transducer/water column yoke to either end of the spoiler. Set the edge stops (leading and trailing edges) so the yoke extends 13 to 26 mm (0.5 to 1 in.) beyond each edge.
9. Start selsyn drive and stepping motor control to start scan. Scanning time is normally 2 to 3 hours.
10. As yoke moves lengthwise across spoiler, index the C-scan at each 152-mm (6-in.) mark of the spoiler.
11. Observe and correct sticking pen solenoids whenever they occur during a scan. Lubricate with MEK and graphite powder.
12. After the scan, remove the graphite spoiler and wipe dry with absorbent toweling.
13. Observe color pattern on C-scan for highly attenuated areas. Recalibrate and rescan as necessary to verify attenuation levels.
14. Store C-scan with the production planning paper for later study.

As an additional assurance that the adhesive-bonding techniques and materials being employed on the spoiler program were yielding complete and fully filleted bonding of the honeycomb core to the composite skin panels, a portion of a spoiler was selected for destructive evaluation. A 457-mm (18-in.) section was cut from the end of the 65-76327-3 static test spoiler (S/N 0081) and designated by Quality Assurance as representative of the fabrication techniques being employed. The specimen was further divided with spanwise cuts into three equal sections for ease of handling and evaluation (fig. 33). These three sections were then immersed in a chemical-milling solution to chemically remove all the aluminum material, leaving the cured adhesive, graphite composite, and fiberglass materials intact.

Each section of the chemically treated specimen was visually assessed by Quality Assurance personnel. Filleting of the honeycomb core was termed as 100%, with generous flow of adhesive along the nodes. Figures 34 through 37 show the filleting achieved on the interior surfaces of the skins.

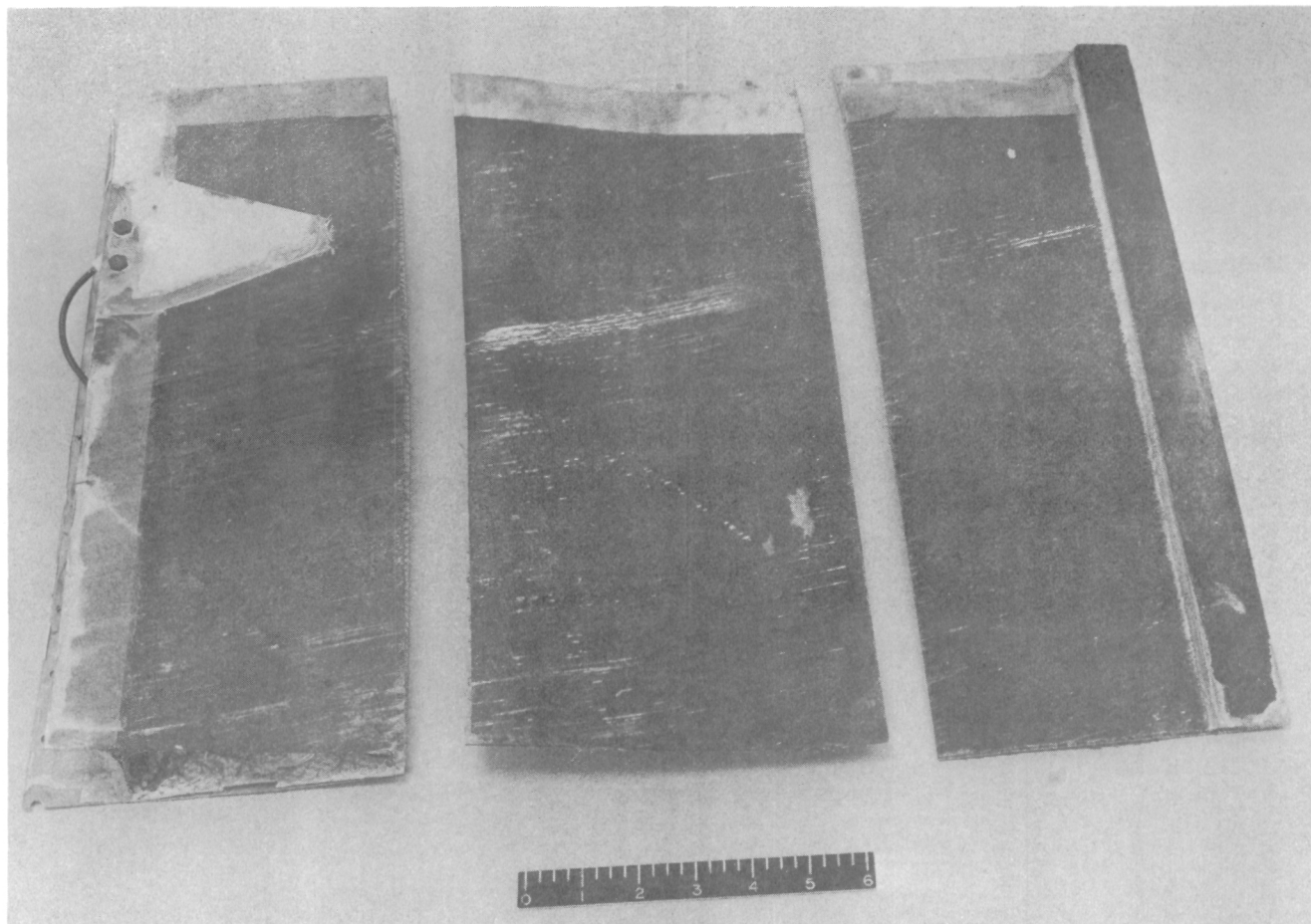
## MANUFACTURING COSTS

One of the most significant factors that continues to impede the general usage of carbon composites in aircraft structural applications is the uncertainty regarding fabrication costs. The availability of cost data covering fabrication of significant quantities of structural components is extremely limited. Since the graphite-epoxy flight spoiler program offers an exceptional opportunity to monitor fabrication costs in a production-shop environment, the data derived from this program should be considered to be of substantial importance.

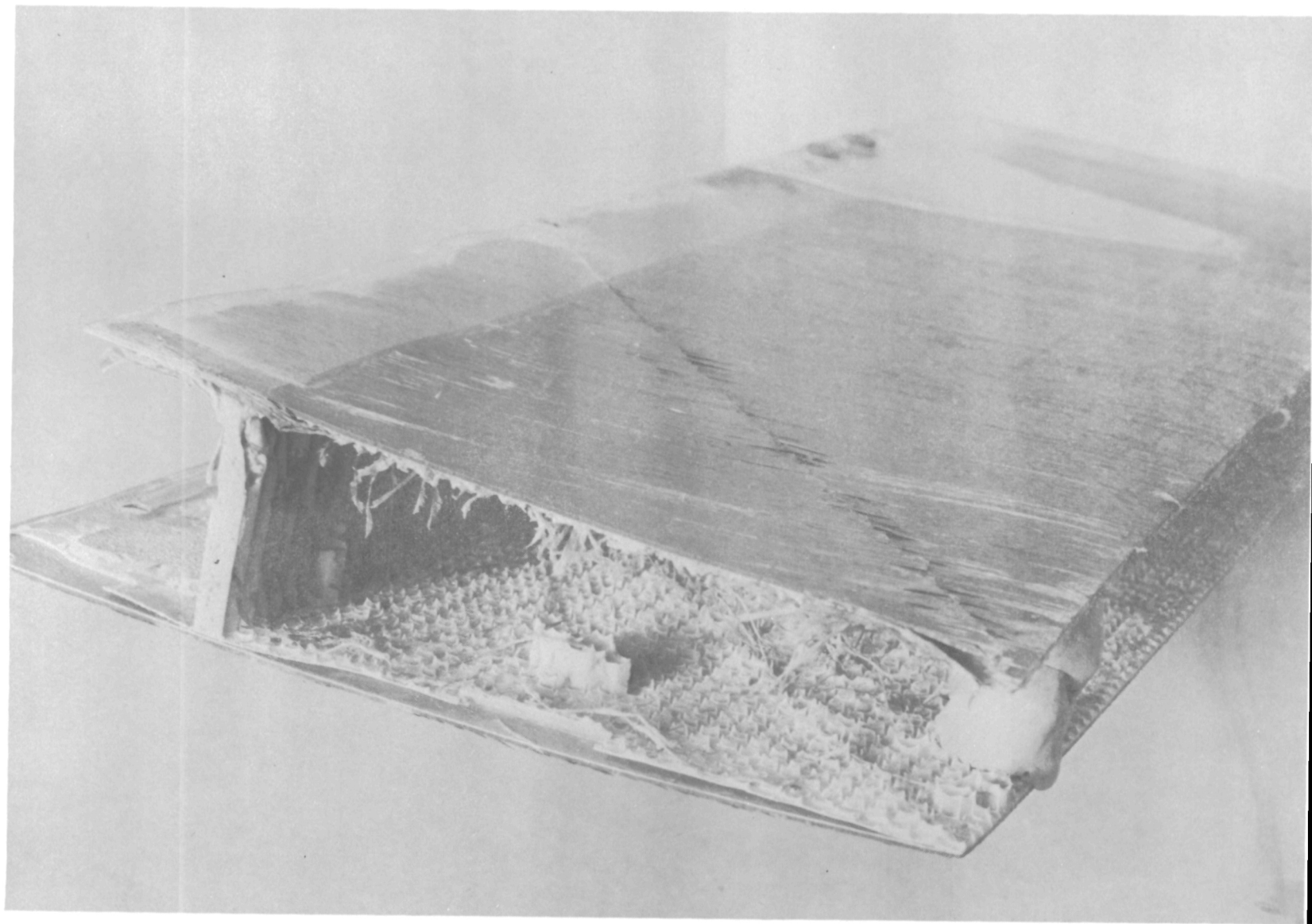
The cost collection system was set up to receive charge inputs from the several production shops involved in the fabrication effort. All labor charges from the participating shops were accumulated against a single work order number. These charges were cumulative against the shop activity for this effort and were not associated with the effort expended on any one unit, with the exception of the composite skins that were made in lots of four and were identifiable in the cost collection system as separate production lots. Figures 38 and 39 show the variation in man-hours for fabrication of skin laminates and bonded spoiler assemblies, respectively.

In addition to the direct labor charges associated with spoiler fabrication, additional nonrecurring activities assessable to the spoilers were identified. Those activities and hours, which represent a sizable (one-third) increment of the total expenditures on this program, are shown in table 8.

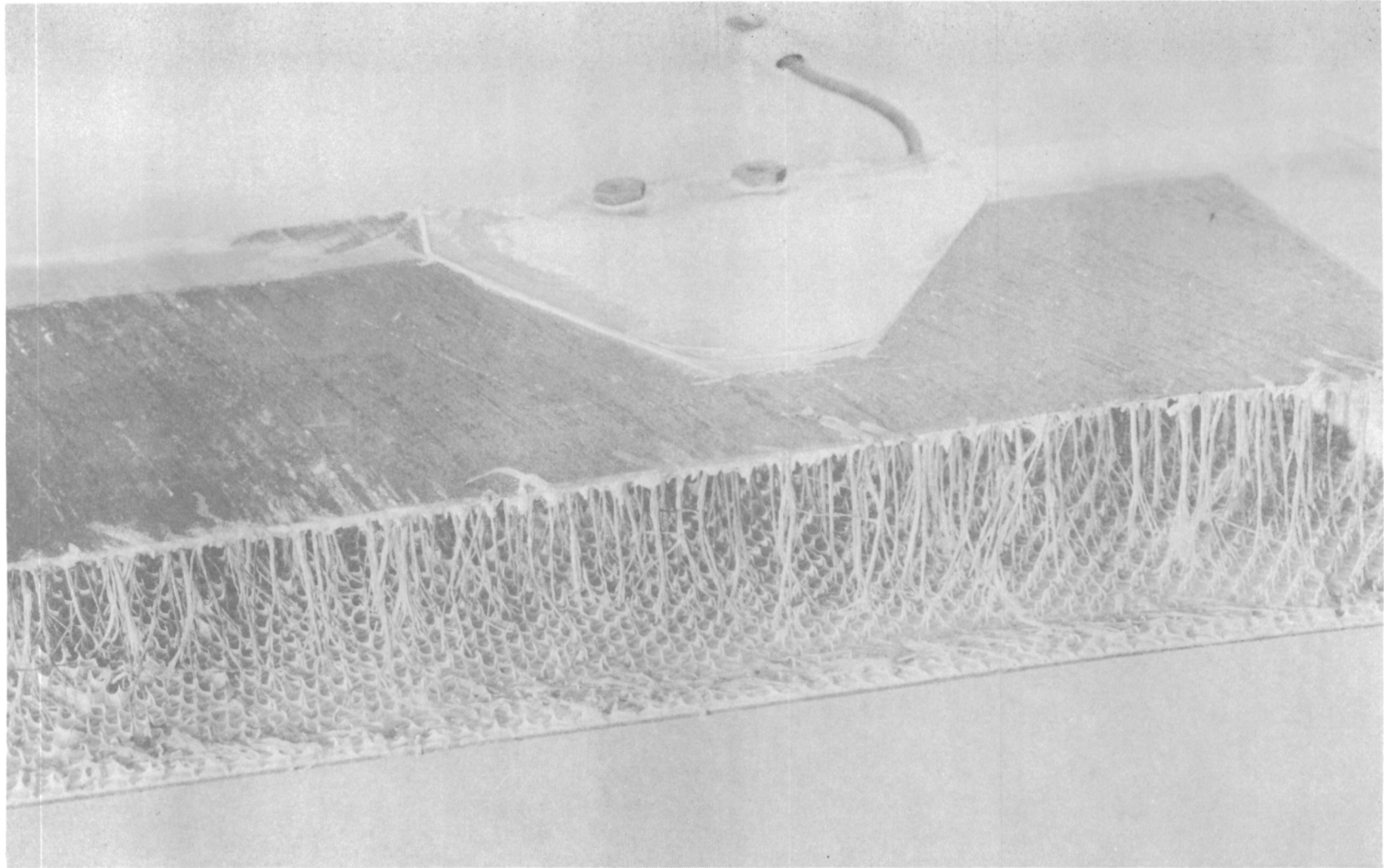
Table 9 shows a breakdown of direct labor and material costs for an average graphite composite spoiler fabricated in this program. The total direct labor hours are further identified in table 10. A breakdown of the graphite composite material utilization has been prepared and is shown in table 11.



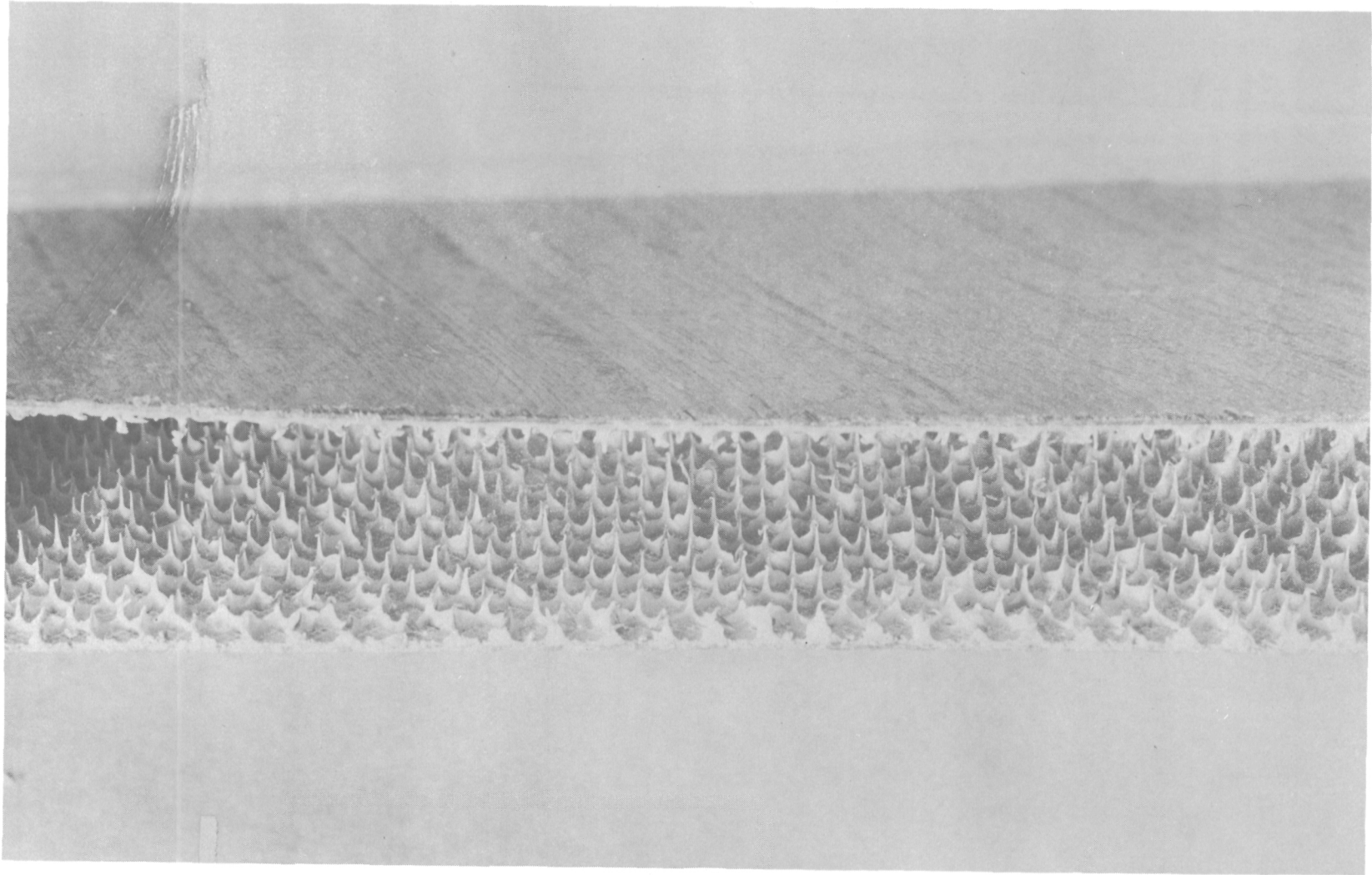
*Figure 33.—Chem-Milled Sections of -3 Test Spoiler*



*Figure 34.—Adhesive Filleting Near Leading Edge*

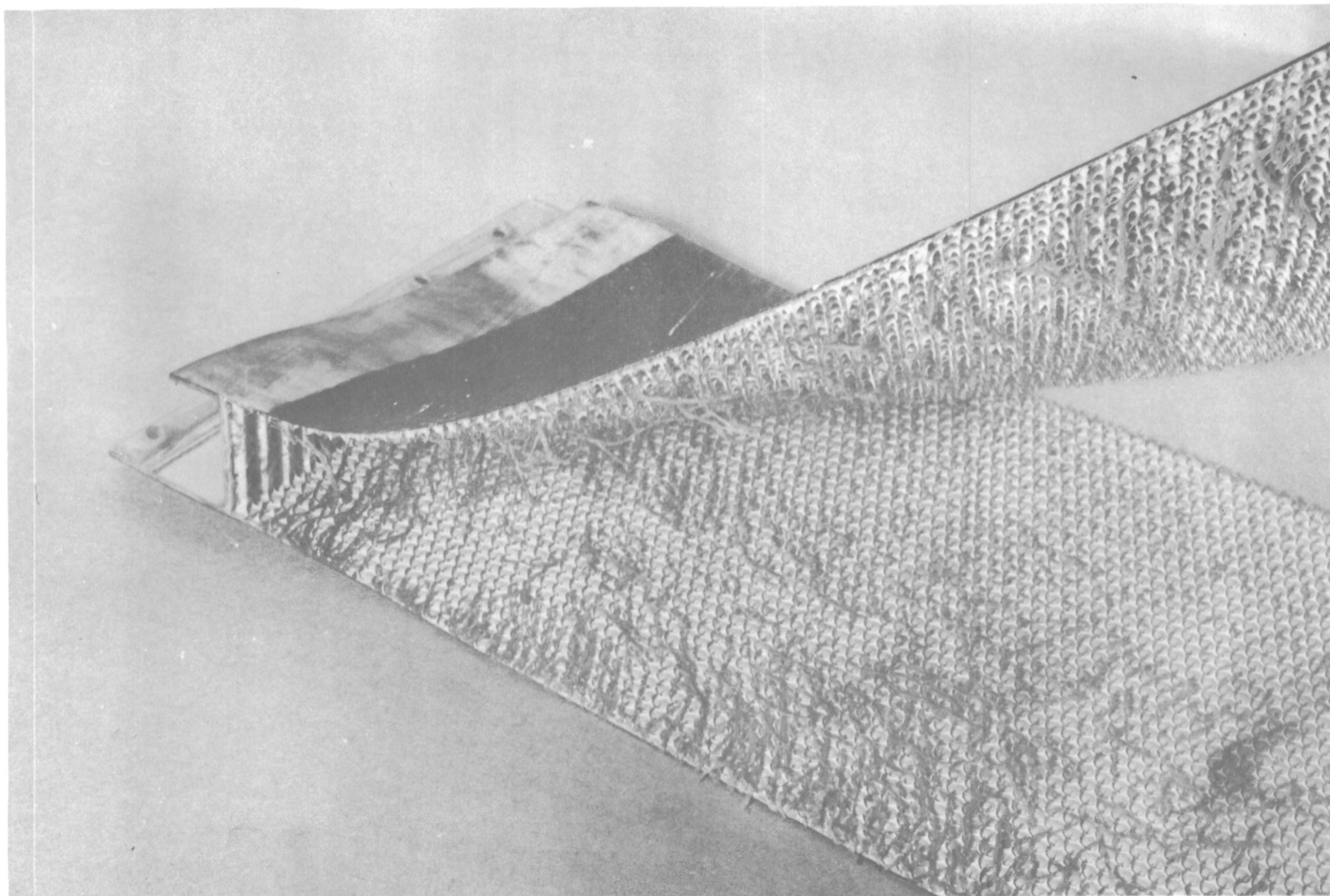


*Figure 35.—Adhesive Filleting and Core Node Bonding*



*Figure 36.—Closeup of Skin-To-Core Adhesive Filletting*





*Figure 37.—Adhesive Filleting and Core Node Bonds, Transition Section*

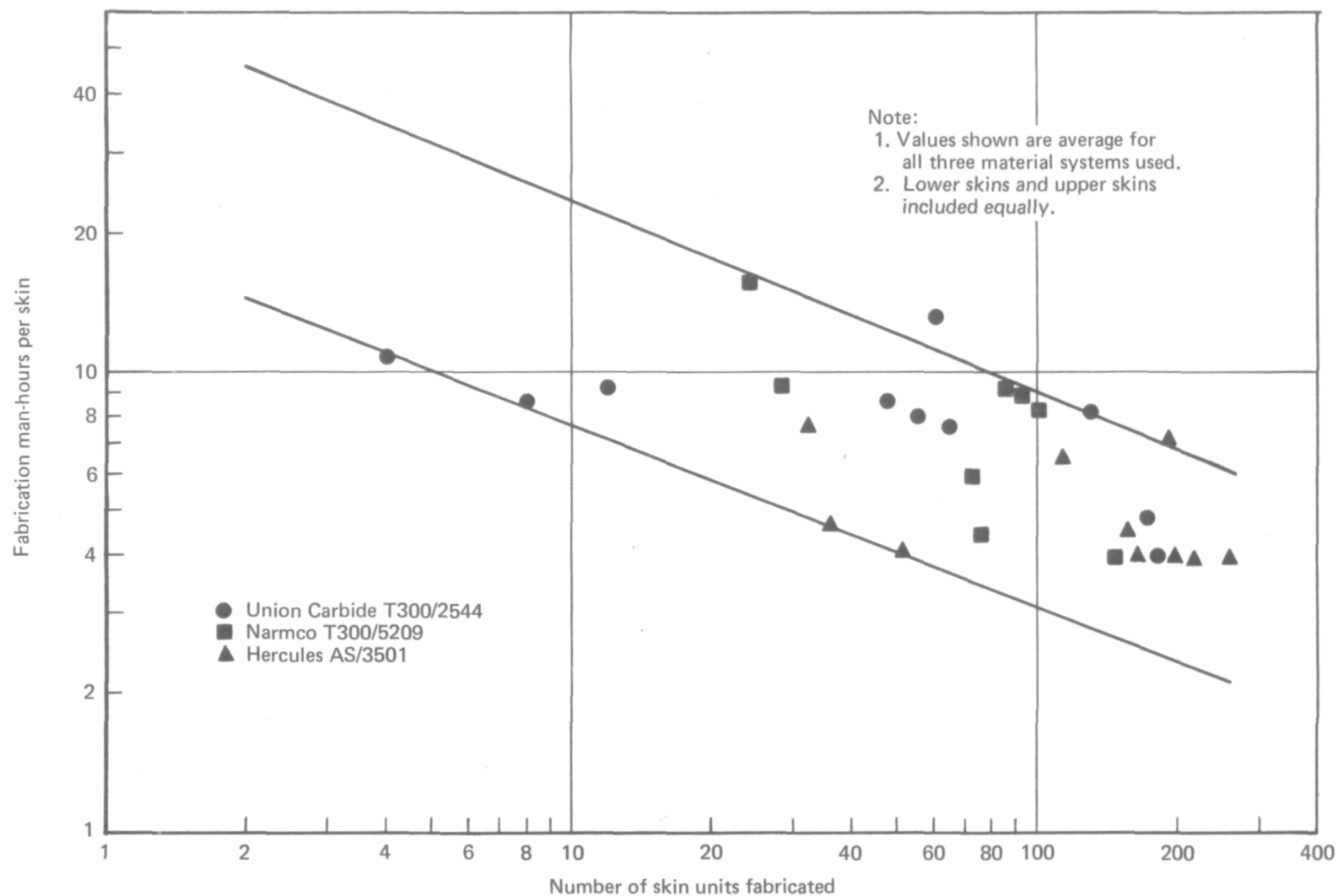


Figure 38.—Man-Hours Required for Skin Laminate Fabrication



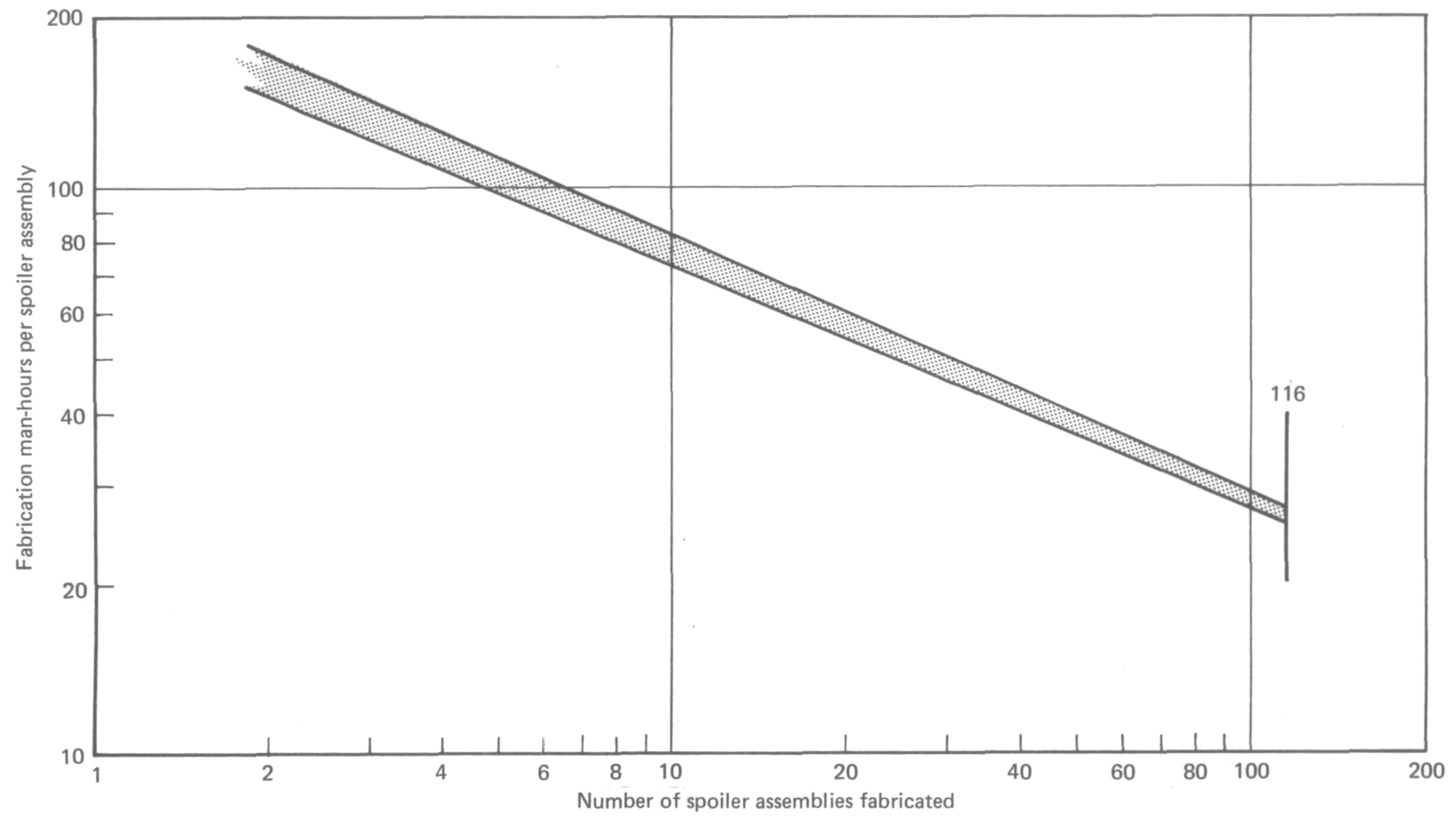


Figure 39.—Man-Hours Required for Spoiler Assembly

*Table 8.—Nonrecurring Labor Expenditures*

| Function                                      | Labor       |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
|   | Hours       | Percent     |
| Tooling fabrication                           | 2358        | 25.7        |
| Manufacturing engineering                     | 525         | 5.7         |
| Tool grinding (modification)                  | 54          | 0.6         |
| Materiel                                      | <u>122</u>  | <u>1.3</u>  |
| Subtotal                                      | 3059        |             |
| Recurring labor hours<br>(114 total spoilers) | <u>6116</u> | <u>66.7</u> |
| Total   | 9175        | 100.0       |

*Table 9.—Average Composite Spoiler Fabrication Costs*

| Component                   | Material costs  | Labor       |             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                             |                 | Hours       | Percent     |
| Purchased Parts             |                 |             |             |
| Center hinge fitting        | \$255.00        |             |             |
| Outboard slotted hinge (2)  | 45.50           |             |             |
| Leading-edge channel (2)    | 37.00           |             |             |
| Seals                       | 10.00           |             |             |
| Fasteners                   | 1.50            |             |             |
| Honeycomb core              | 21.73           |             |             |
| Clips                       | 12.00           |             |             |
| Graphite-epoxy prepreg tape | \$460.00        |             |             |
| Fiberglass                  | 2.25            |             |             |
| Bearings                    | 24.50           |             |             |
| Adhesive                    | 35.40           |             |             |
| Composite Parts             |                 |             |             |
| Graphite-epoxy skin (2)     |                 | 12.6        | 24.0        |
| Fiberglass end rib (2)      |                 | 5.2         | 9.9         |
| Final Assembly              |                 | <u>26.0</u> | <u>49.4</u> |
| Subtotal                    | <u>\$904.88</u> | <u>43.8</u> |             |
| Quality Control             |                 | 7.2         | 13.7        |
| Production Control          |                 | <u>1.6</u>  | <u>3.0</u>  |
| Total                       |                 | 52.6        | 100.0       |

Table 10.—Average Composite Spoiler Fabrication Labor Hours

| Operation  | Labor man-hours |         |
|--|-----------------|---------|
|  | Hours           | Percent |
| Graphite-epoxy skin layup and cure (upper and lower) | 12.6            | 28.8    |
| Fiberglass end rib fabrication                       | 5.2             | 11.9    |
| First-stage bond assembly, including core machining  | 10.5            | 24.0    |
| Second-stage bond assembly                           | 7.0             | 16.0    |
| Painting, seal installation, bearing installation    | 8.5             | 19.4    |
| Totals   | 43.8            | 100.1   |

① Average of 114 units produced

② Does not include tooling, production control, quality assurance R&D support of NDT

Table 11.—Graphite Composite Material Utilization

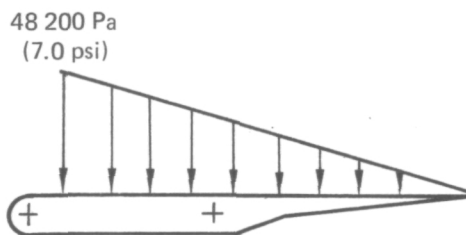
| Composite used in fabrication of Task I spoilers                                | Amount  |          |
|---|---------|----------|
|   | m       | (ft)     |
| Receiving inspection . . . . .  | 244     | (800)    |
| In-process quality assurance . . . . .  | 366     | (1 200)  |
| Skin layup . . . . .  | 13 742  | (45 056) |
| Trim, scrap, and other process losses . . . . .                                 | 2 142   | (7 024)  |
| Unused material for laminate repairs . . . . .                                  | 366     | (1 200)  |
| Composite used in fabrication of 900 environmental exposure specimens . . . . . | 366     | (1 200)  |
| Total purchased   | 17 226  | (56 480) |
| Skins lost in process . . . . .   | 1 074   | (3 520)  |
| Material utilization factor = $\frac{13\,742 - 1074}{13\,742 + 2142}$           | = 79.6% |          |

## CERTIFICATION TESTING

Before an aircraft structural component can be installed on a certificated commercial aircraft, it must be certificated under the applicable provisions of Federal Aviation Regulations Part 25. Section 25.305 of these regulations states, in part, "the structure must be able to support limit loads without detrimental permanent deformation" and "the structure must be able to support ultimate loads without failure for at least three seconds." These requirements formed the basis for certification of the graphite-epoxy spoiler.

Prior static testing had already established the strength level of the production 737 flight spoiler (65-46451) as 210% of design limit load. Static test of the flight spoiler was not required for certification of the 737 aircraft; it was conducted as a portion of an internal research and development effort at Boeing.

Figure 40 shows the static test setup used to apply the simulated airloads to the spoiler surface. Eight compression load pads are attached to the upper surface and interconnected by a system of beams to a single loading actuator to produce the same hinge moment as the design limit airload shown below. Figure 41 illustrates this critical loading method applied to the 737 aluminum spoiler.

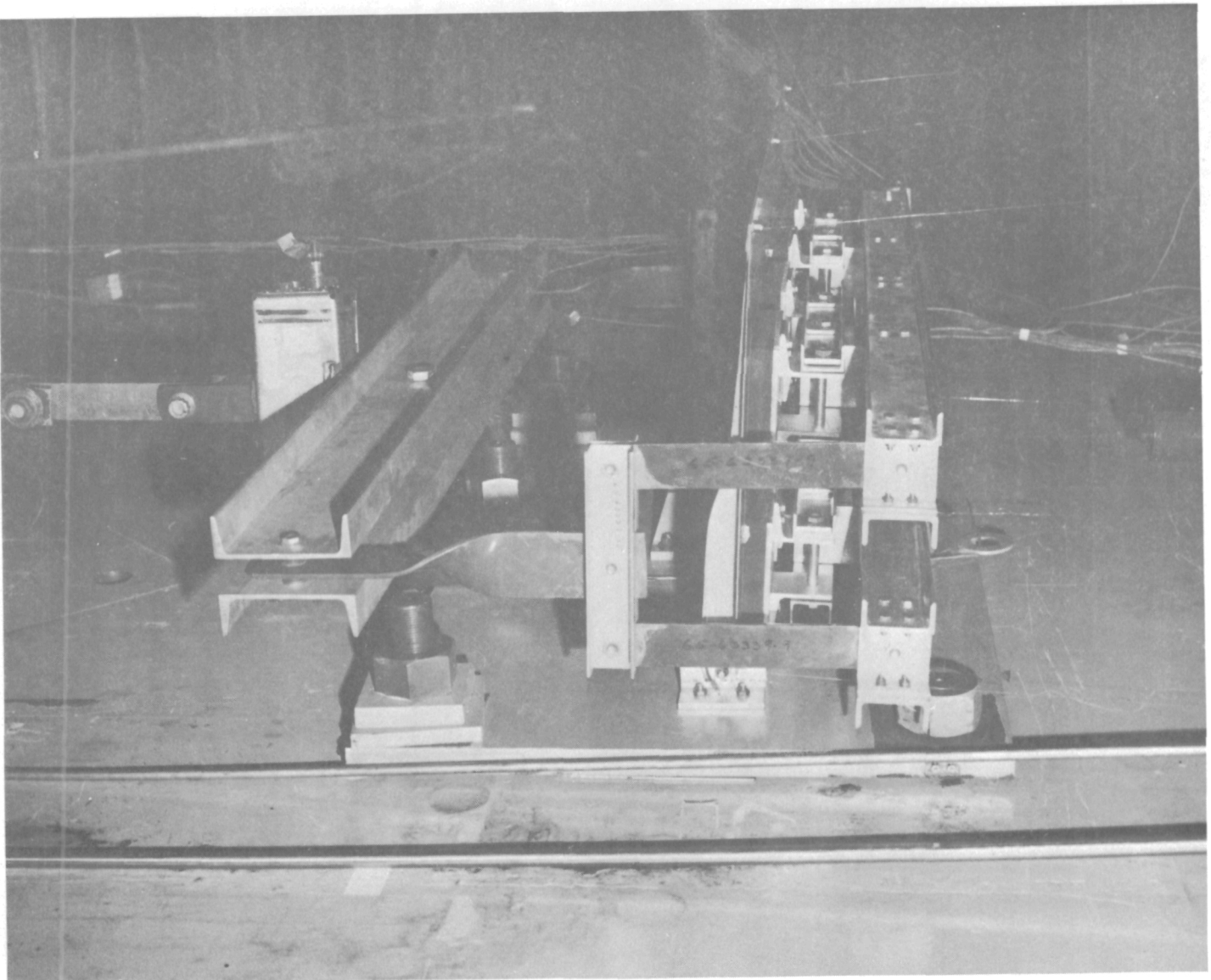


All spoiler static testing was conducted to this design loading.

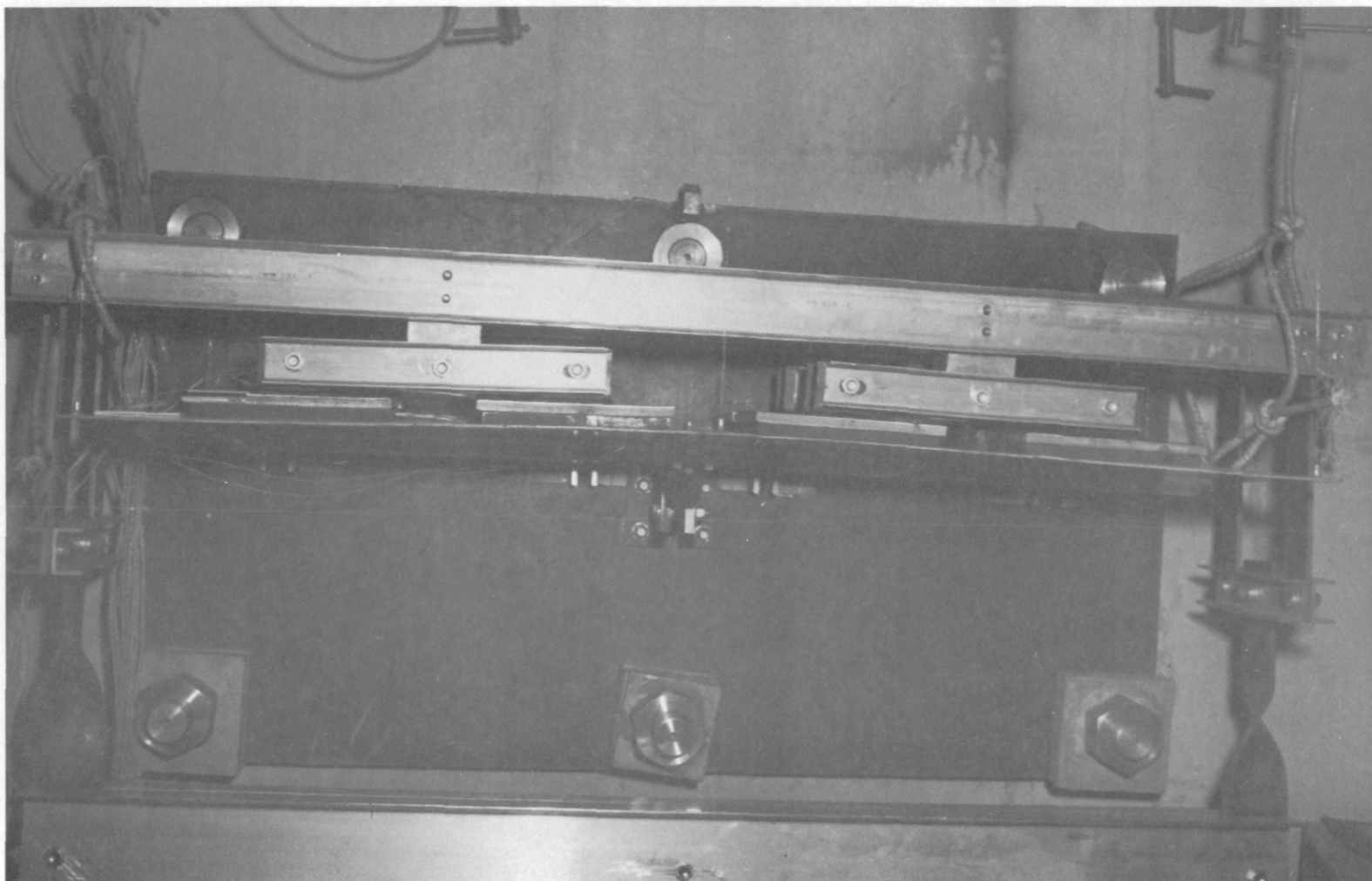
Since three spoiler assemblies incorporating three distinct graphite-epoxy material systems were fabricated, three separate certification tests were conducted, one on the first spoiler assembly produced of each type. Applied load and deflections of the spoiler were recorded in each test. Figure 42 shows the locations of the deflection gages. Testing results are summarized in table 12.

Plots of each test are shown in figures 43, 44, and 45, with the corresponding plot of the production aluminum spoiler shown in each figure for easy reference. Photos of the failed specimens are shown in figures 46 through 51.

Boeing Commercial Airplane Company  
P.O. Box 3707  
Seattle, Washington 98124  
October 1, 1976



*Figure 40.—Spoiler Static Test Setup*



*Figure 41.—737 Production Spoiler Under 100% Limit Load*

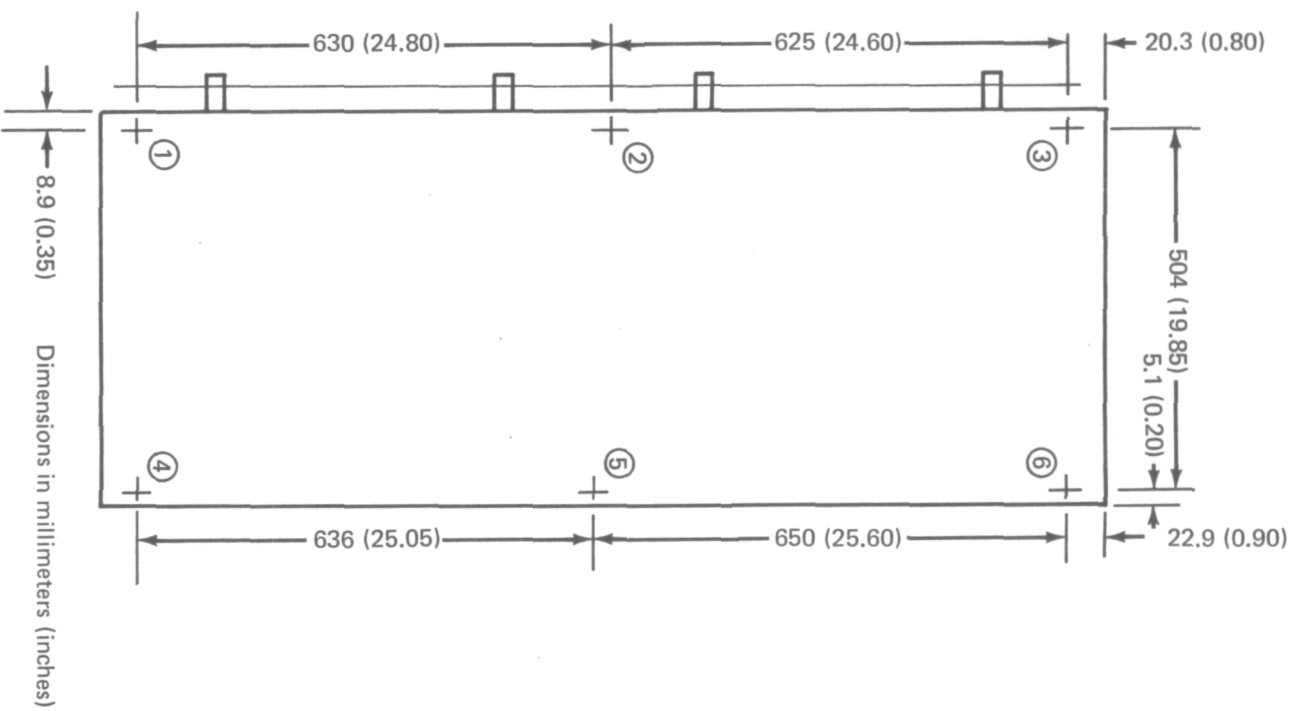


Figure 42.—Deflection Gage Locations—Static Test

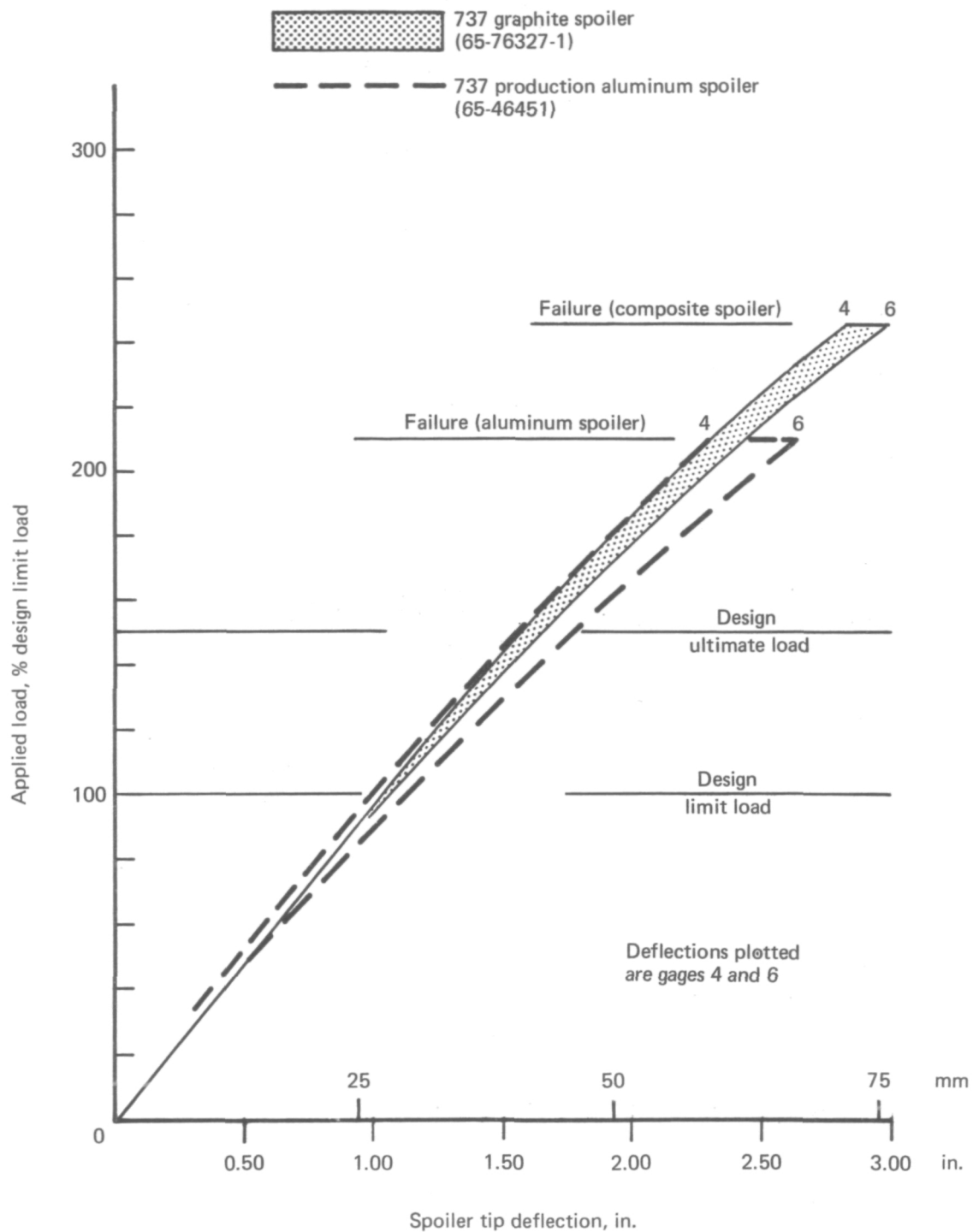


Figure 43.—Graphite Spoiler Tip Stiffness (Union Carbide 65-76327-1)



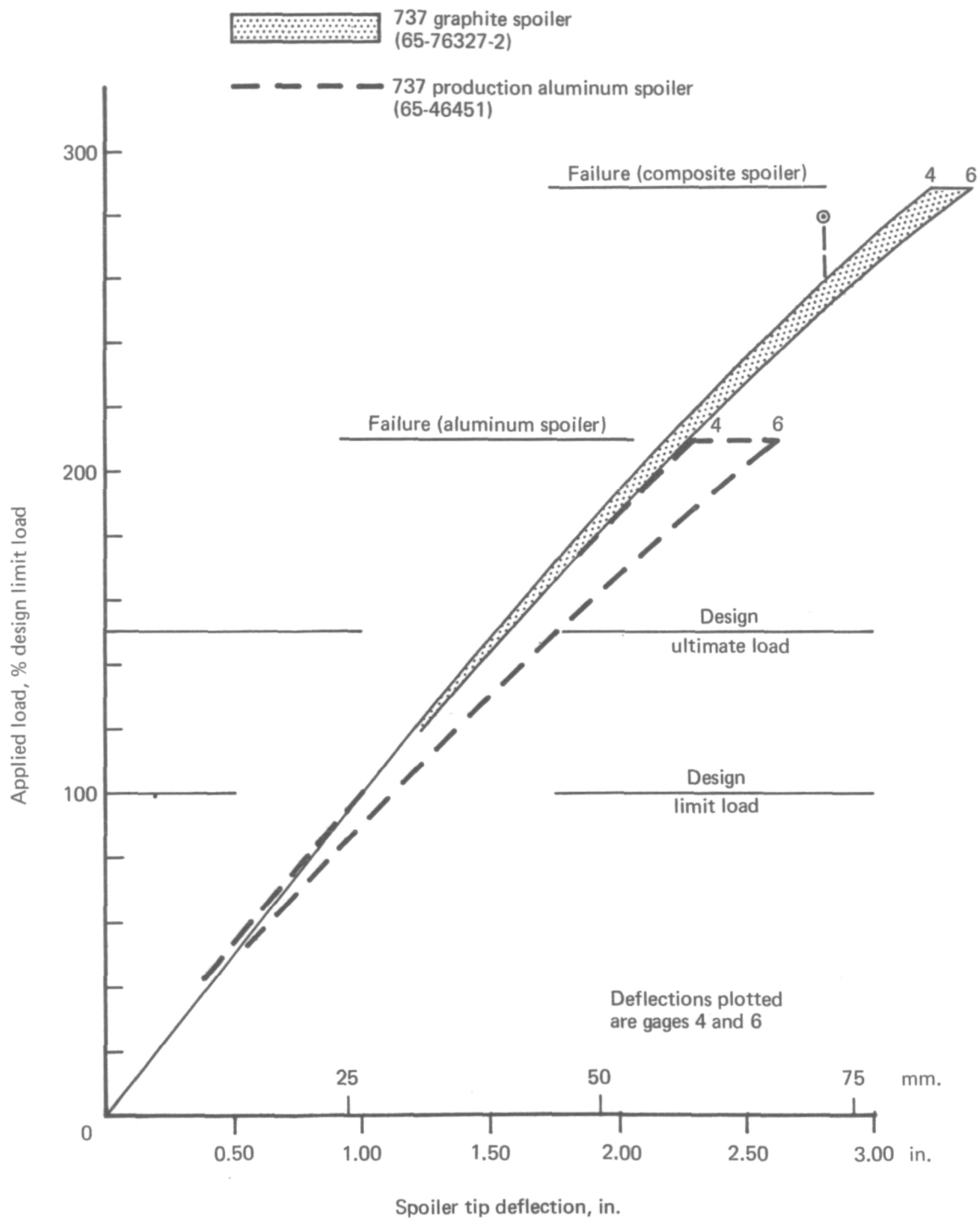


Figure 44.—Graphite Spoiler Tip Stiffness (Narmco 65-76327-2)

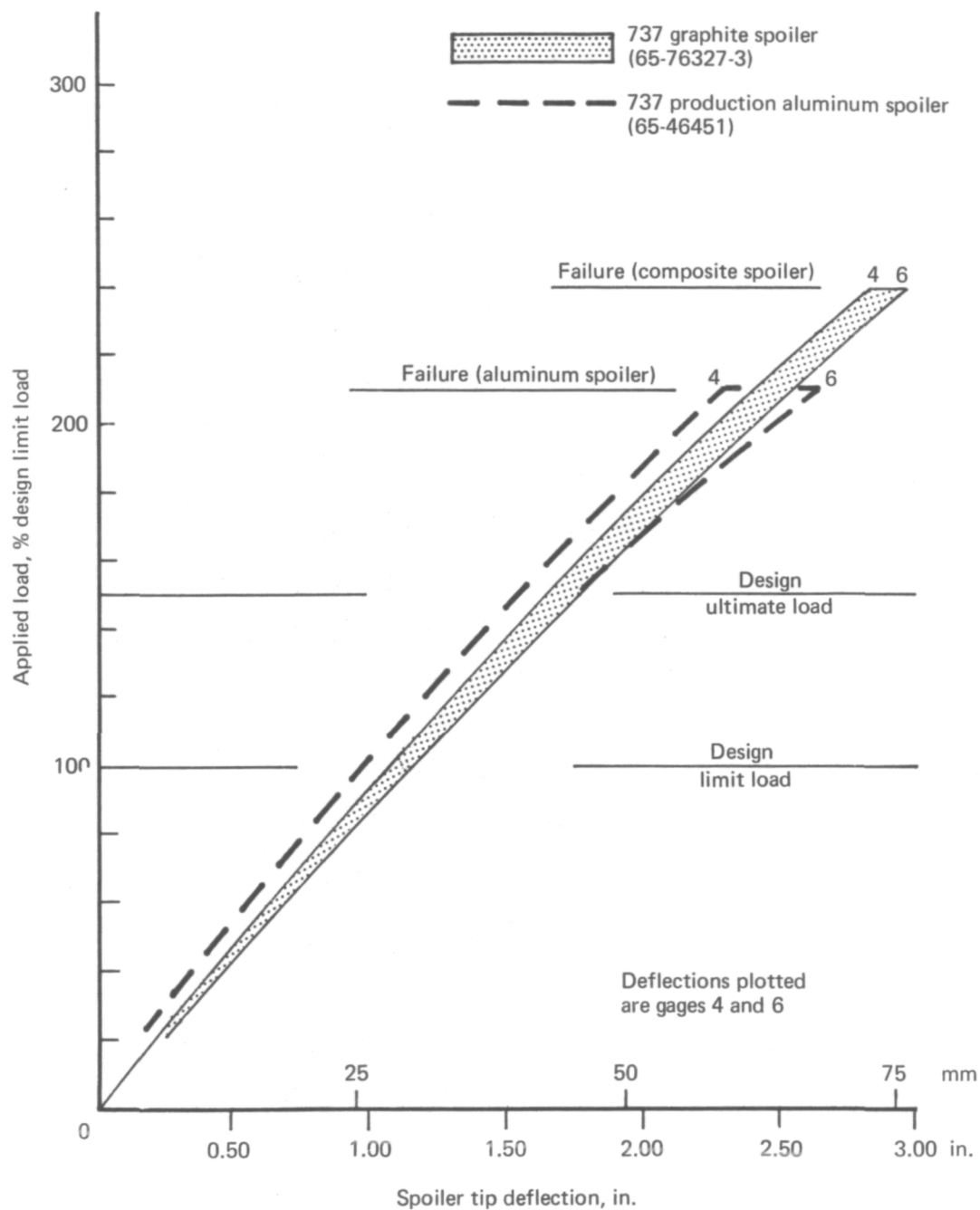
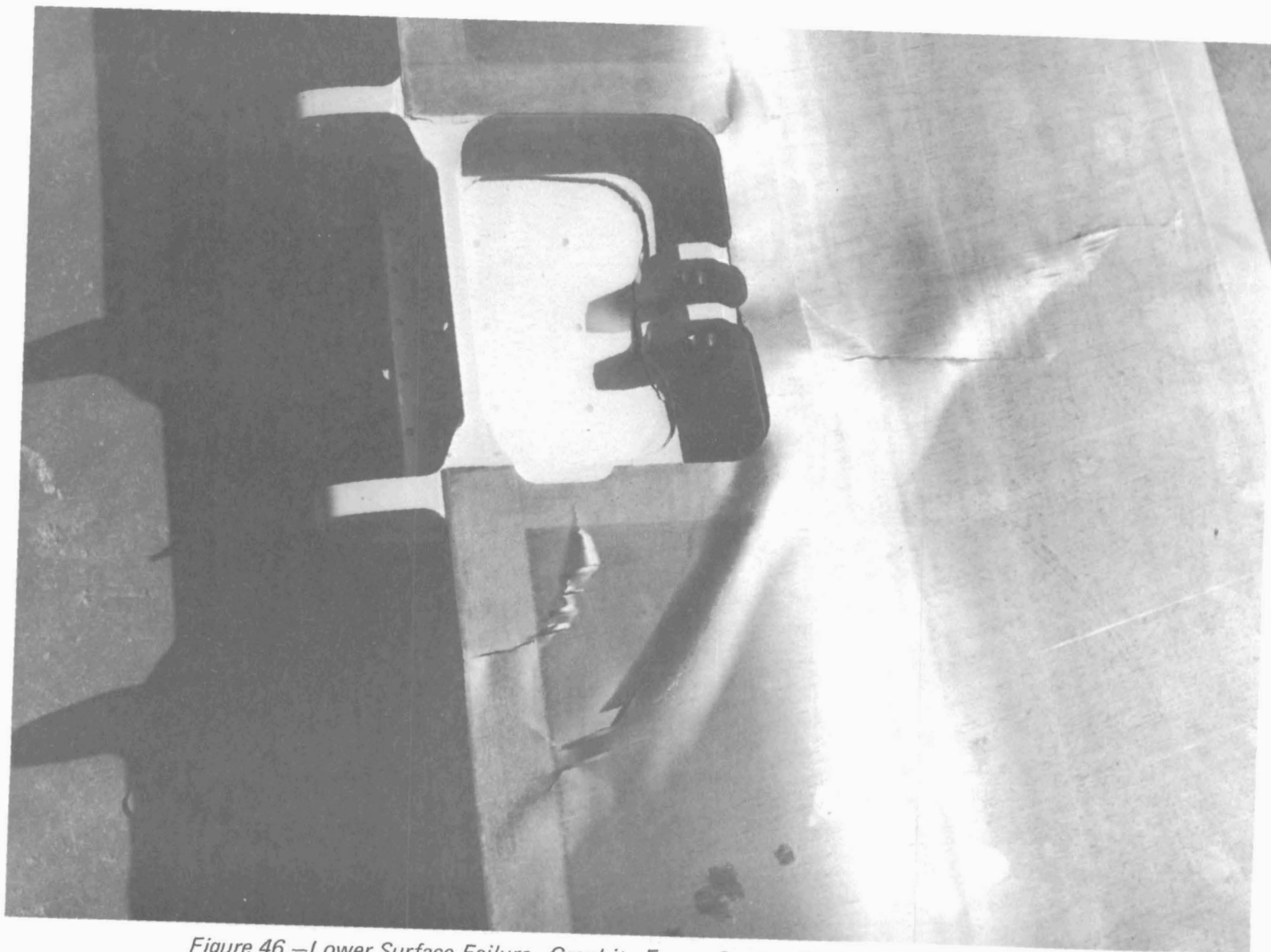
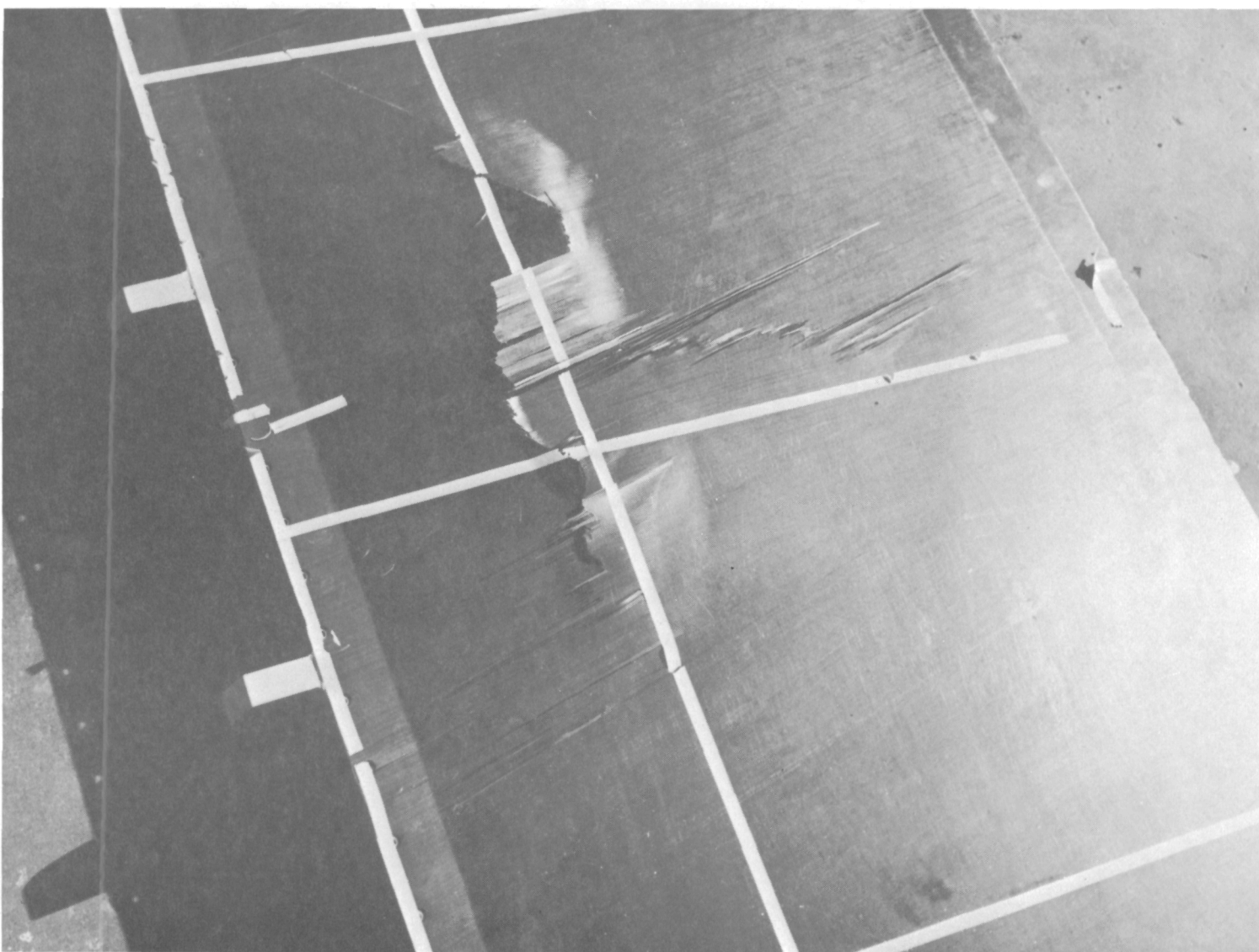


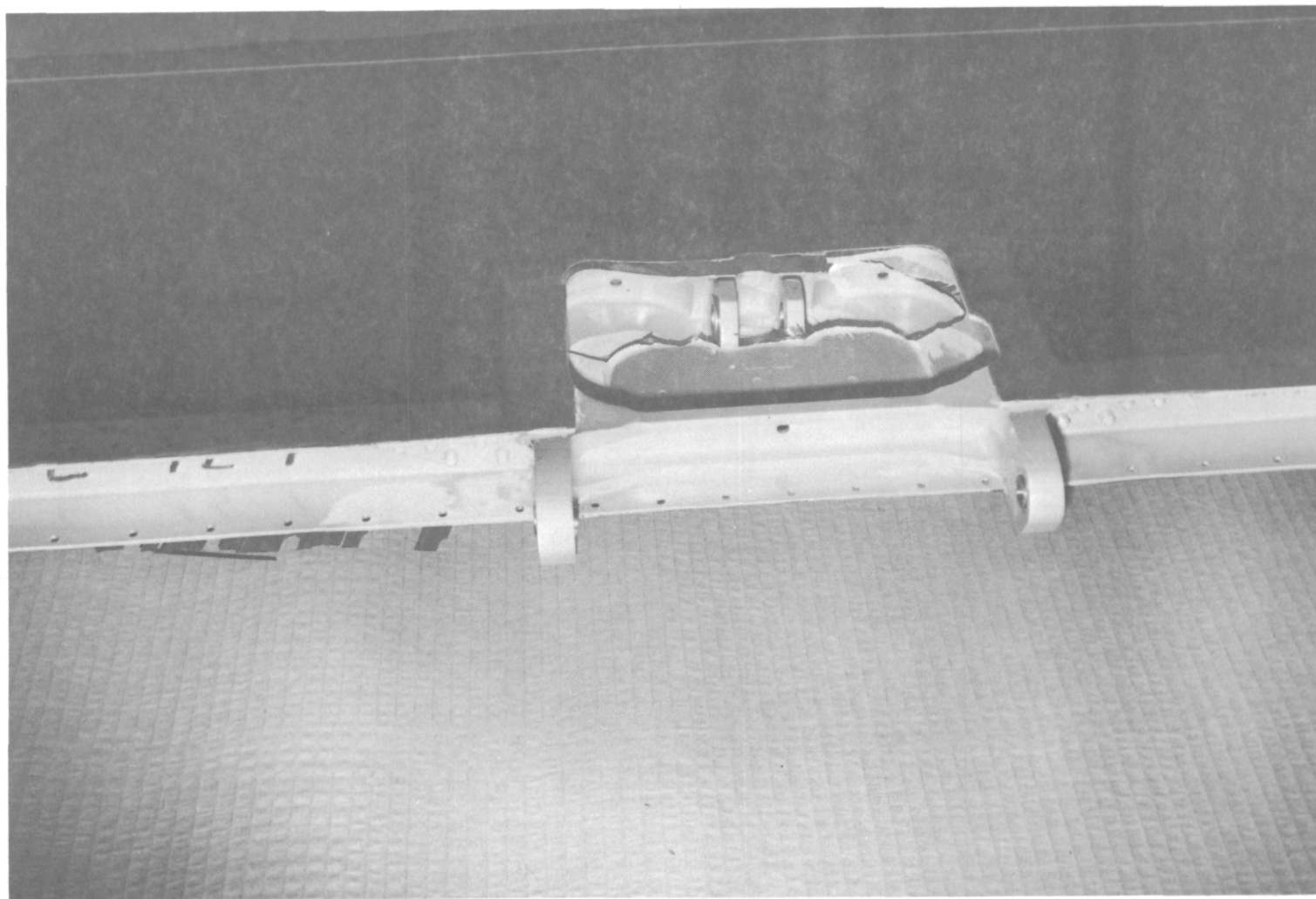
Figure 45.—Graphite Spoiler Tip Stiffness (Hercules 65-76327-3)



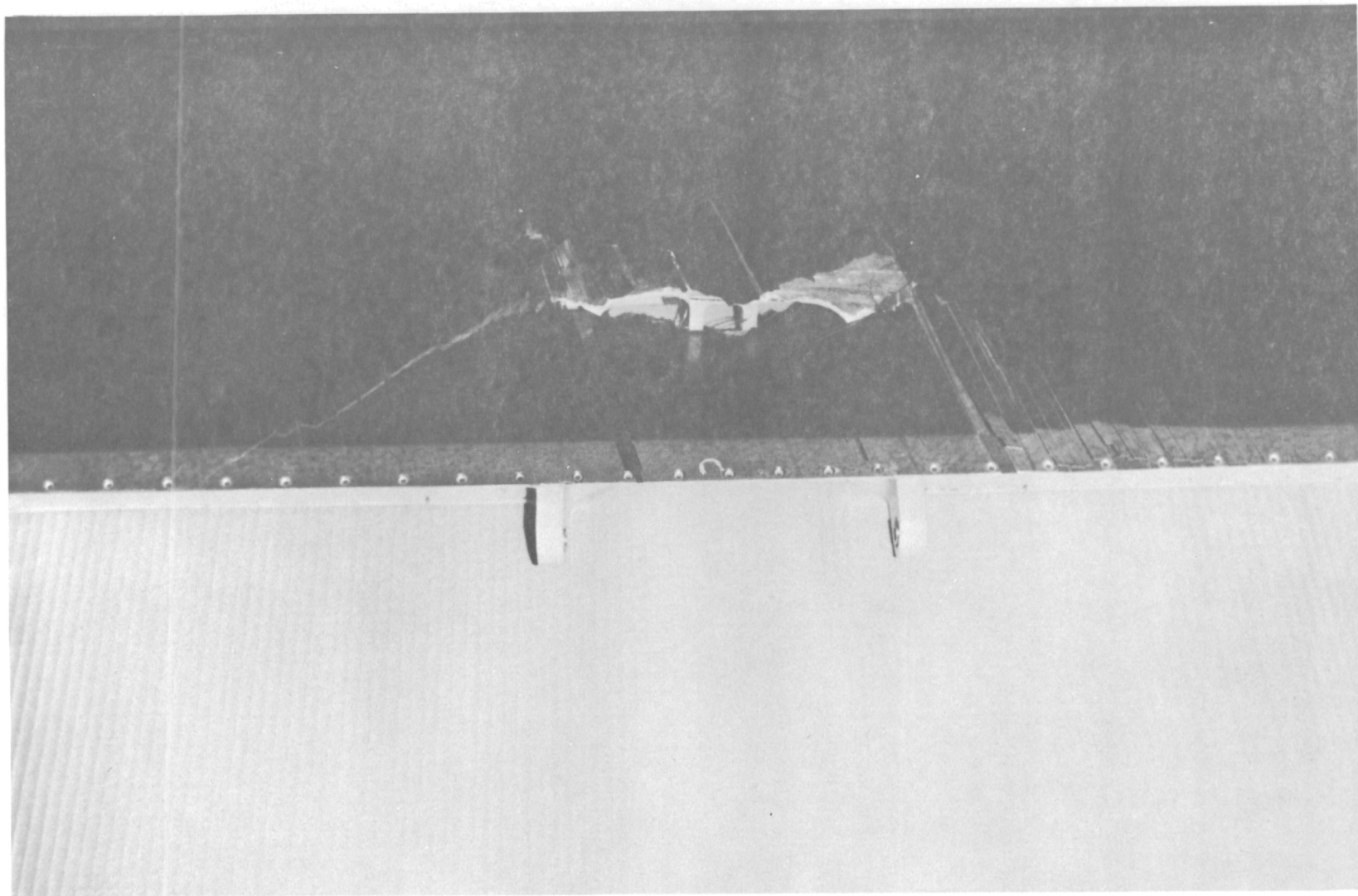
*Figure 46.—Lower Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Union Carbide 65-76327-1)*



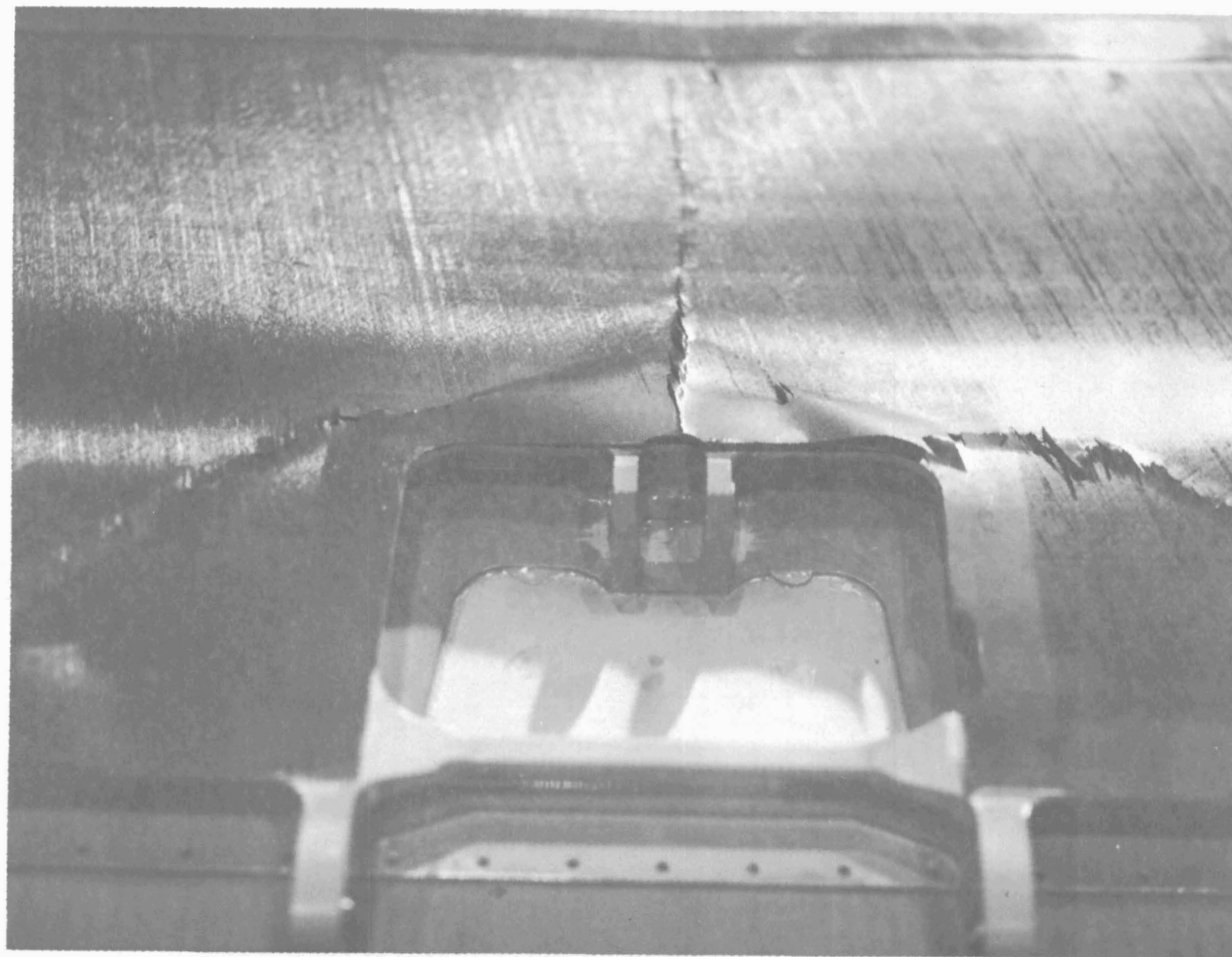
*Figure 47.—Upper Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Union Carbide 65-76327-1)*



*Figure 48.—Lower Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Narmco 65-76327-2)*

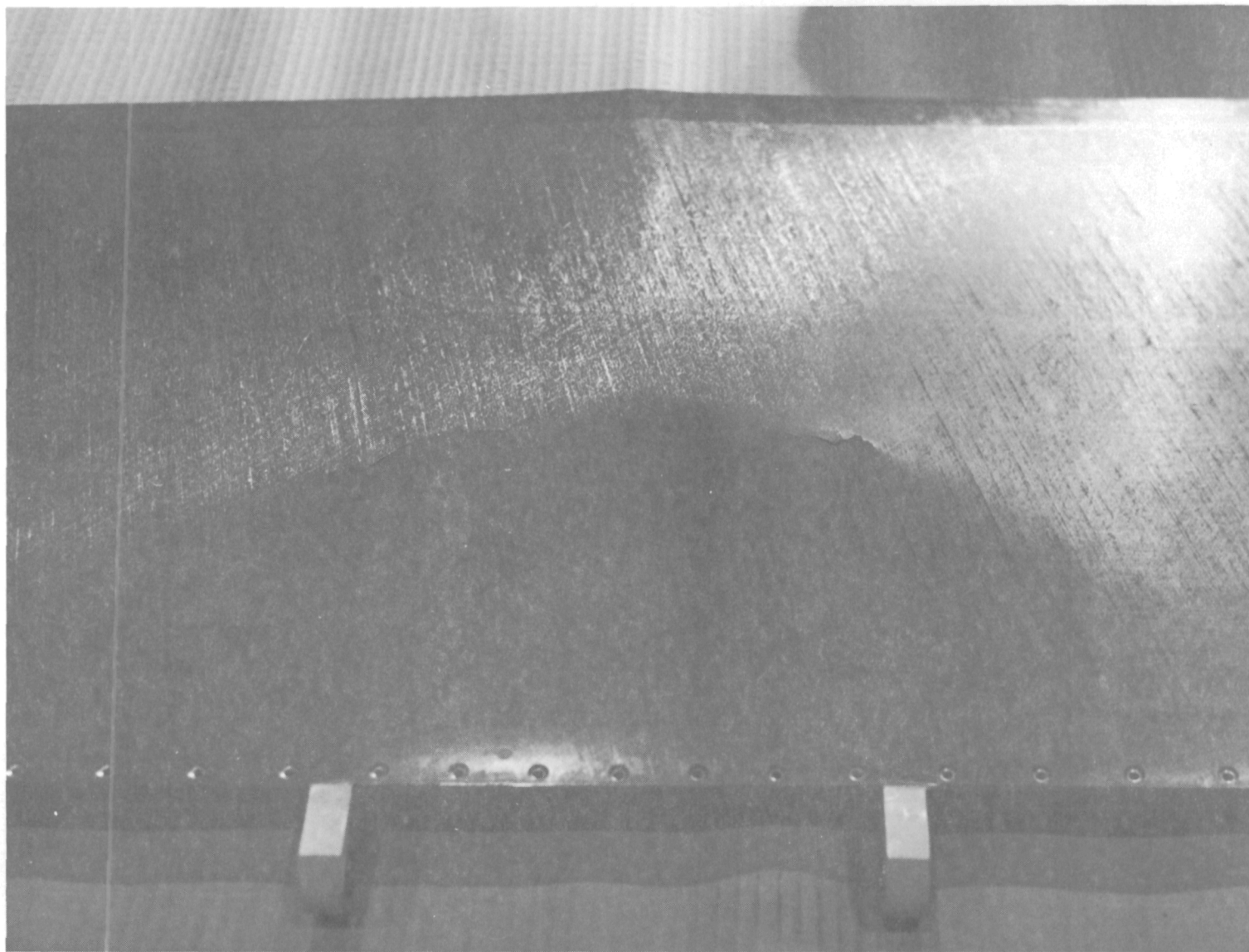


*Figure 49.—Upper Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Narmco 65-76327-2)*



*Figure 50.—Lower Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Hercules 65-76327-3)*





*Figure 51.—Upper Surface Failure—Graphite-Epoxy Spoiler (Hercules 65-76327-3)*



Table 12.—Test Spoiler Strength Comparisons

| Test specimen   | Ultimate strength, % design limit load | Ultimate strength requirement, per FAR 25, % design limit load | Failure description  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 65-76327-1<br>Serial number 0002<br>Union Carbide<br>Thornel 300/2544 | 246                                    | 150  | Failure of -11 aluminum upper surface doubler; yielding of 65-49507-8 fitting; secondary tensile failure of -8 graphite skin above -11 failure.            |
| 65-76327-2<br>Serial number 0041<br>Narmco Thornel 300/5209           | 289                                    | 150  | Failure of 65-49507-8 fitting, followed by shear failure of -11 aluminum doubler; secondary tensile failure of -9 graphite skin above fitting failure.     |
| 65-76327-3<br>Serial number 0081<br>Hercules AS/3501                  | 241                                    | 150  | Compression failure of -7 graphite skin along aft edge of 65-49507-8 fitting; secondary failure of honeycomb core and lower skin along spoiler centerline. |
| 65-46451<br>737 production aluminum                                   | 210                                    | 150  | Failure of upper surface skin in tension above 65-49507-8 fitting.   |

**Page intentionally left blank**

## **APPENDIX**

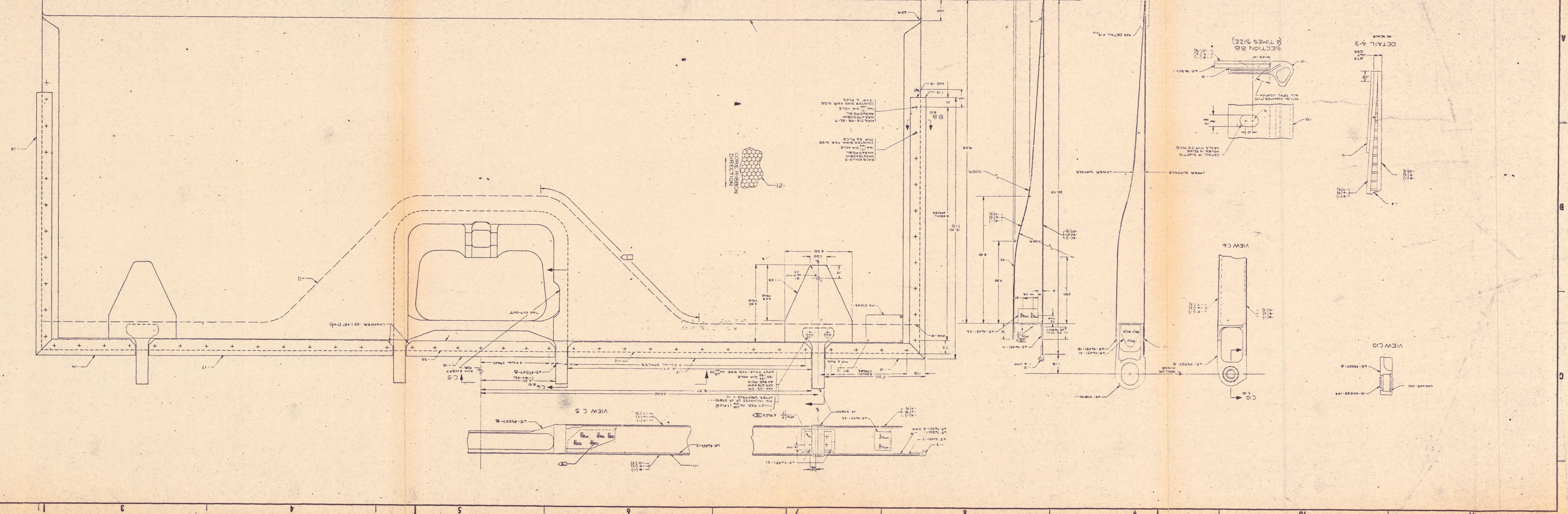
### **ENGINEERING DRAWING 65-76327**

Sheets 1, 2, and 3



**Page intentionally left blank**

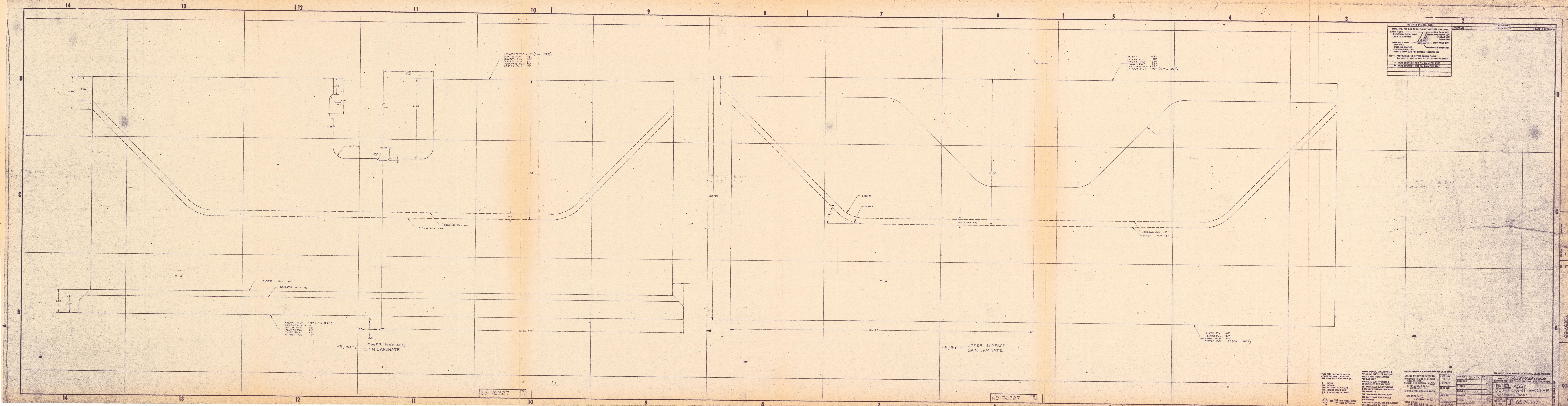


[illegible]



**Page intentionally left blank**







**Page intentionally left blank**

## REFERENCES

1. Stoecklin, R. L.: *737 Graphite Composite Flight Spoiler Flight Service Evaluation*. NASA CR 132663, May 1975.
2. Stoecklin, R. L.: *737 Graphite Composite Flight Spoiler Flight Service Evaluation*. NASA CR 144984, May 1976.
3. Billington, J. P.: *Fabrication and Inspection Requirements for NASA Contract NAS 1-11668, 737 Graphite-Epoxy Flight Spoilers*. D6-32541, Boeing Commercial Airplane Company, June 11, 1973.
4. Thompson, V. S.: *Improved Tooling for Large Structural Components, Final Report, July 19, 1971-July 18, 1972*. AFML-TR-72-198, Boeing Commercial Airplane Company, October 1972.